PLANET
COMICS
MAR.
No. 29
WEIRD ADVENTURES
ON FUTURE WORLDS
"DRAGON-RAIDERS
OF AZTLA"
OUT OF BURNING SKIES SWOOPS
A GREEN WARRIOR-HORDE ON
THE SPACE RANGERS!
MARS, GOD OF WAR
HUNT BOWMAN ON THE LOST WORLD
10¢

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LOOK FOR THE BULL'S-EYE

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FICTION HOUSE MAGAZINES

A FICTION HOUSE MAGAZINE

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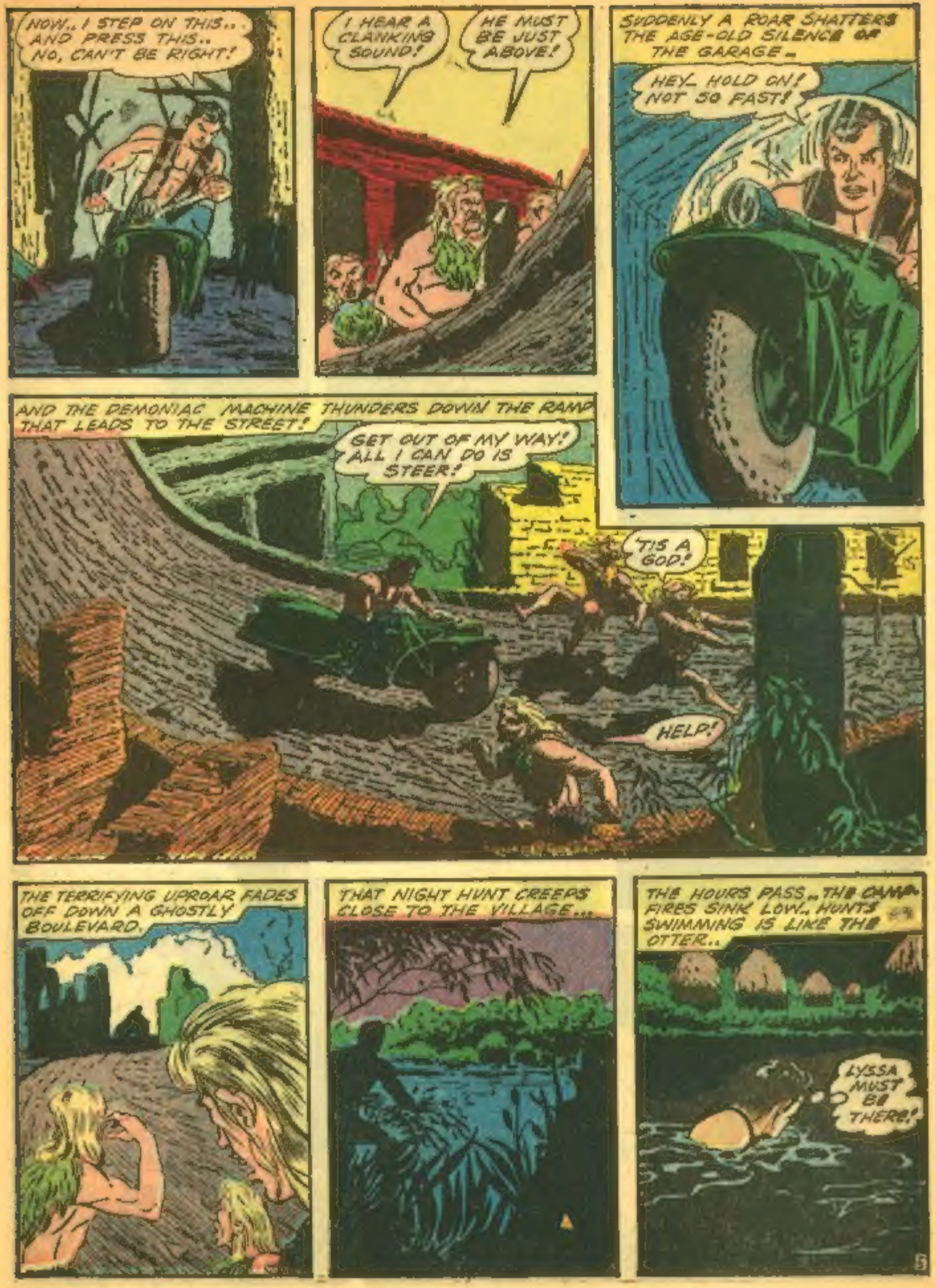
LOST WORLD
By THORNE CLIFF HERBERT
CENTURIES HAVE PASSED SINCE THE VOLTA INVASION... EARTH STILL REMAINS A SHATTERED WILDERNESS.. BUT AMID THE CRUMPLED GLORY OF HOLLYWOOD, HUNT BOWMAN AND LYSSA DISCOVER A STRANGE NEW RACE...
DESCENDANTS OF A FEW EARTH SURVIVORS AS PRIMITIVE AS THE DIGGER INDIANS THAT PORTOLA FIRST SAW IN THE GOLDEN CALIFORNIA HILLS, THESE TALL, BLOND WARRIORS WORSHIP A TERRIBLE LIVING GOD THAT NO MAN HAS EVER LOOKED UPON...
THIS IS A STRANGE PLACE, LYSSA.. MUST HAVE BEEN SOME SORT OF TEMPLE.. WHAT'S LOBO GROWLING AT?
I DON'T KNOW, HUNT! I FEEL A LITTLE NERVOUS MYSELF!
LOOK.. FOOTPRINTS IN STONE!
AND THESE COULD BE NAMES OF GODS.. C-L-A-R-K--G-A-B-L-E.. M-Y-R-N-A--L-O-Y.. HUH!

AN OFFERING OF FOOD.. AND STILL FRESH! LYSSA, THAT MEANS SOMEONE'S ALIVE AROUND HERE!
SOM POOR SURVIVOR OF THAT TERRIBLE INVASION OF THE VOLTA MEN.. PERHAPS REVERTED TO THE PRIMITIVE!
THEY DO NOT SEE THE SHADOWY FIGURE BECKON TO OTHERS...
BUT THEY DO HEAR THE TERRIBLE VOICE!
SEIZE THE OUTLANDERS! CAPTURE THEM! DO NOT LET THEM GET AWAY!
WE HEAR THEE, INVISIBLE ONE!
TO THE ATTACK!
RUN, LYSSA, RUN!
SEIZE THE GIRL!
WATCH OUT FOR THE DOG'S TEETH!
LET ME GO!
QUIET, LYSSA! THEY HAVE US!
AYE! WE HAVE YOU! BEST COME PEACEABLY!

SAVAGE GRIPS RELAX. HUNT AND HIS HAIR-TRIGGER MUSCLES ARE READY! WITH A SWIFT LUNGE, HE BREAKS AWAY...
HE MUST NOT ESCAPE!
BUT HE IS LIKE A DEER!
FEARFULLY THE SAVAGE CHIEF RAISES HIS HEAD TO THE SOMBRE RUINS ABOUT HIM..
OH, INVISIBLE ONE.. THY FORGIVENESS.. THE MAN HAS ESCAPED!
DRAGGING LYSSA WITH THEM, THE STRANGE SAVAGES MOVE.
POOR HUNT... WILL I EVER SEE HIM AGAIN!
AGAIN, THAT WEIRD VOICE SOUNDS..
TRACK HIM DOWN AND KILL HIM! AND DELIVER THE GIRL TO ME WITH THE OTHERS.. AT THE APPOINTED TIME!
GUARD THIS GIRL WITH YOUR LIFE. SHE IS TO GO WITH THE FOUR MAIDENS CHOSEN FOR THE INVISIBLE ONE!
AYE, DALGO.. NEVER FEAR! SHE SHALL BE PRESERVED!
NOW WE SHALL SEE IF THIS HOUND WILL NOT LEAD US TO HIS MASTER! GO!

IN THE HEART OF THE NEARBY RUINS OF LOS ANGELES, HUNT WATCHES FROM THE ROOF OF A GARAGE...
GOOD OLD LOBO! HOW CAN HE KNOW WHAT TREASON IS!
LOBO'S SNIFFS RISE TO WHINES.. HIS MASTER IS NEAR!
WAIT.. THE BRUTE REFUSES TO GO FURTHER!
QUICK.. SURROUND THE HOUSE OF THE SMELL!
HUNT IS TRAPPED!
I WILL NOT BE TAKEN! I MUST.. HA! WHAT DO I SEE IN THAT CRATE!
A MOTORCYCLE! STILL CRATED FOR DELIVERY.. JUST AS ON THAT DAY OF THE FIRST GREAT VOLTA RAID!
..IF ONLY I CAN REMEMBER WHAT THE HERMIT OF BROOKLYN BRIDGE TOLD ME ABOUT RUNNING IT!
HOARSE YELLS COME FAINTLY FROM BELOW. THE SAVAGES ARE SEARCHING THE BUILDING!
I MUST WORK FAST. THIS DIAGRAM LOOKS SIMPLE ENOUGH.. HERE'S THE TRINALIUM FUEL CAPSULE...


NOW.. I STEP ON THIS.. AND PRESS THIS.. NO, CAN'T BE RIGHT!
I HEAR A CLANKING SOUND!
HE MUST BE JUST ABOVE!
SUDDENLY A ROAR SHATTERS THE AGE-OLD SILENCE OF THE GARAGE..
HEY.. HOLD ON! NOT SO FAST!
AND THE DEMONIAC MACHINE THUNDERS DOWN THE RAMP THAT LEADS TO THE STREET!
GET OUT OF MY WAY! ALL I CAN DO IS STEER!
'TIS A GOD!
HELP!
THE TERRIFYING UPROAR FADES OFF DOWN A GHOSTLY BOULEVARD.
THAT NIGHT HUNT CREEPS CLOSE TO THE VILLAGE...
THE HOURS PASS.. THE CAMP FIRES SINK LOW.. HUNT'S SWIMMING IS LIKE THE OTTER..
LYSSA MUST BE THERE!

A GUARD! BUT HE'S ASLEEP OR HE'D HAVE HEARD ME.

MUST BE THAT HUT, WITH ANOTHER GUARD.. BUT HE'S NOT ASLEEP!

WHATEVER I DO TO HIM HAS TO BE QUIET-- AND SURE!

THE EYE OF AN ARCHER!
RIGHT BEHIND THE EAR!

FIVE GIRLS! BUT WHERE'S LYSSA.. AH!

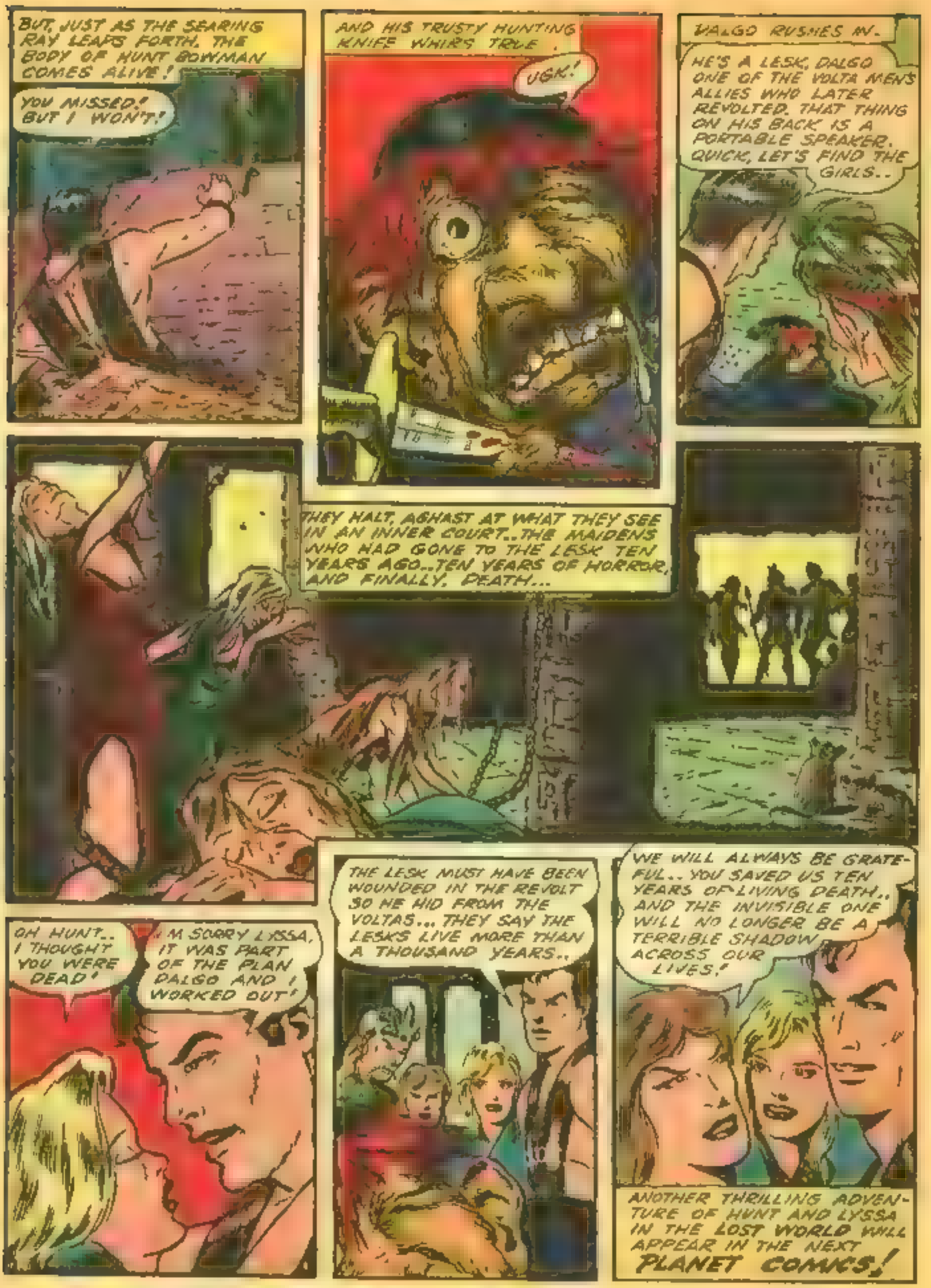
SHH- LYSSA! IT'S HUNT- COME QUICKLY!
WH-WHAT- WHO?

THEN..
HE FELL INTO OUR TRAP LIKE A SALMON. ..GRAB HIM!

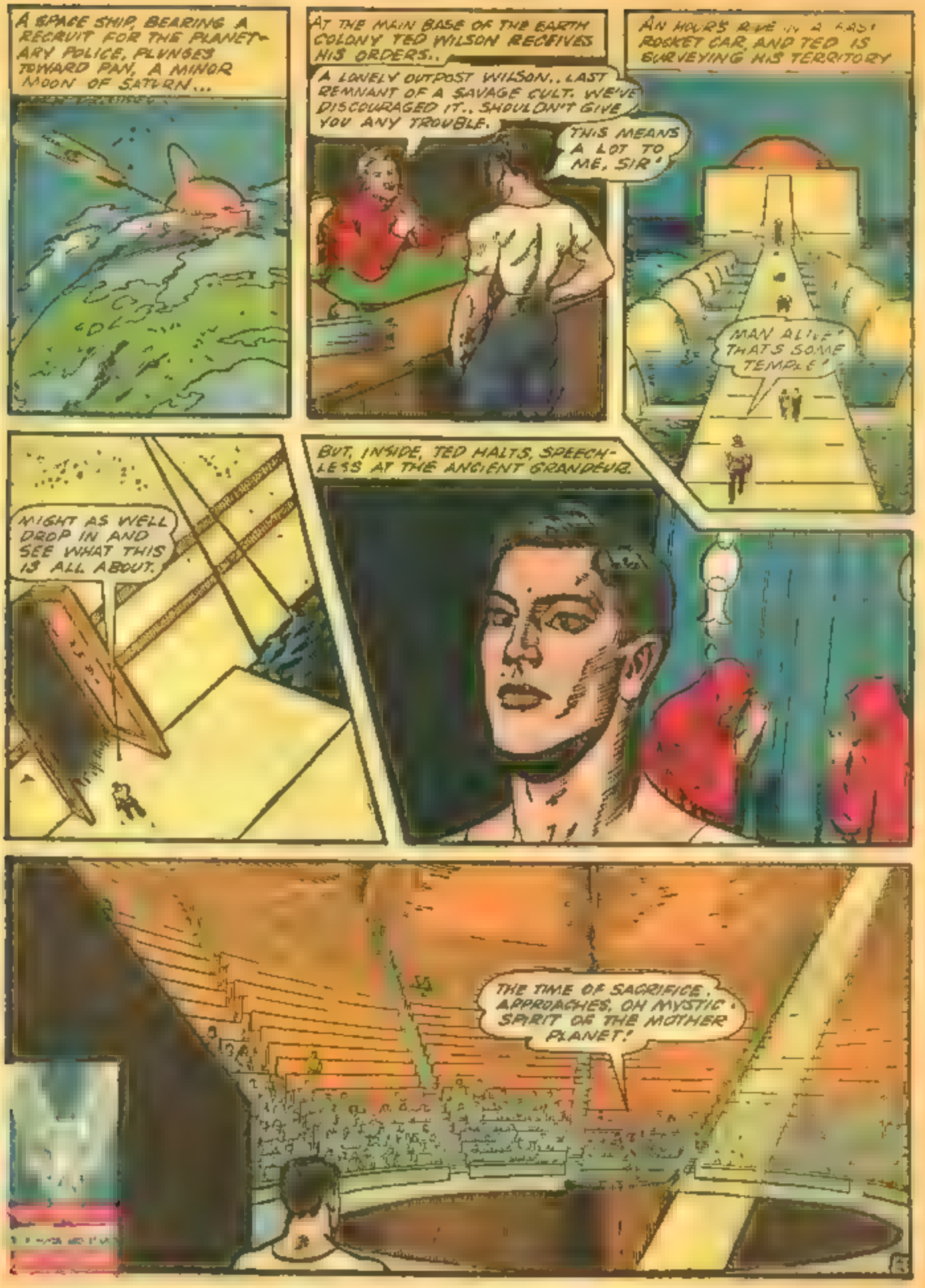
ONCE AGAIN HUNT STRUGGLES.. AND AGAIN IT IS USELESS.. HE IS DRAGGED FORTH.. AND THIS TIME SAVAGE GRIPS DO NOT RELAX..
HOLD HIM THERE. I WOULD SPEAK TO HIM!
YOU HAVE DONE MUCH DAMAGE, BUT WE WILL LET YOU LIVE ON ONE CONDITION.. THAT YOU SHOW US HOW TO WORK THE MACHINES OF THE ANCIENTS..
GLADLY... BUT I TOO HAVE A CONDITION.. THAT YOU SET FREE THE GIRL WHO WAS WITH ME!
THAT WE CANNOT DO! SHE MUST GO WITH THE OTHER MAIDENS WE SEND TO THE INVISIBLE ONE EVERY TEN YEARS... THE INVISIBLE ONE HAS ORDERED IT SO— EVEN MY BETROTHED, MIA, WAS CHOSEN IN COUNCIL— I CANNOT SAVE HER!
BUT WHY MUST THIS BE? YOU ARE THE PROUD CHIEFTAIN OF A GREAT WARRIOR TRIBE— SURELY YOU NEED NOT FEAR A VOICE!
WE SERVE THE INVISIBLE ONE... IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN SO! ONCE, LONG AGO, OUR FATHERS REVOLTED.. THEY WERE ALL SLAIN!
SUDDENLY, FROM THE DISTANT TEMPLE..
AND IT WILL HAPPEN AGAIN! TOMORROW, WHEN YOU BRING THE MAIDENS, BRING ALSO THE BODY OF THIS BOWMAN... DEAD!

ALL TOO SOON THE SUN RISES ON A MOURNING PEOPLE..
DALGO AND MIA CLING SILENTLY..
..AND FOR LYSSA DEATH CANNOT COME TOO SOON..
HUNT!.. HUNT!
THEY LEAD HER TO A BIER..TOO WELL SHE KNOWS WHAT LIES ON IT.
I CAN'T STAND IT.. I CAN'T!
OH, WHY DID THEY DO THIS TO HIM!
SLOWLY, GRIMLY THE PROCESSION STARTS, DOWN THE WEEDY STREETS OF WHAT WAS ONCE THE GAYEST CITY IN NORTH AMERICA, HOLLYWOOD, THE CENTER OF THE GREAT INDUSTRY OF MAKE BELIEVE...

THE SAD CORTEGE HALTS BEFORE THE TEMPLE
WE HAVE GO NO FURTHER THE MAIDENS MUST PROCEED ALONE!
LUGO STRAINS TO FOLLOW HIS DEAR MISTRESS..
DOWN BRUTE!
AND THE BODY OF HUNT BOWMAN IS PLACED IN THE COURT.
NOW GO QUICKLY!
THE MAIDENS WAIT. THE DAY YIELDS TO NIGHT'S CRAWLING FINGERS.. SUDDENLY, A DOOR OPENS
AH! MY REGULAR TRIBUTE.. AND THAT TASTY YOUNG THING THEY CAUGHT YESTERDAY.. AAHH!
AND THE BODY OF THE OUTLANDER.. AS I ORDERED!
I WILL ENJOY BURNING THIS EARTHMAN! IT IS A GOOD SMELL IN MY OLD NOSTRILS!
SO LONG SINCE I'VE USED THIS ON AN ENEMY. SO LONG!

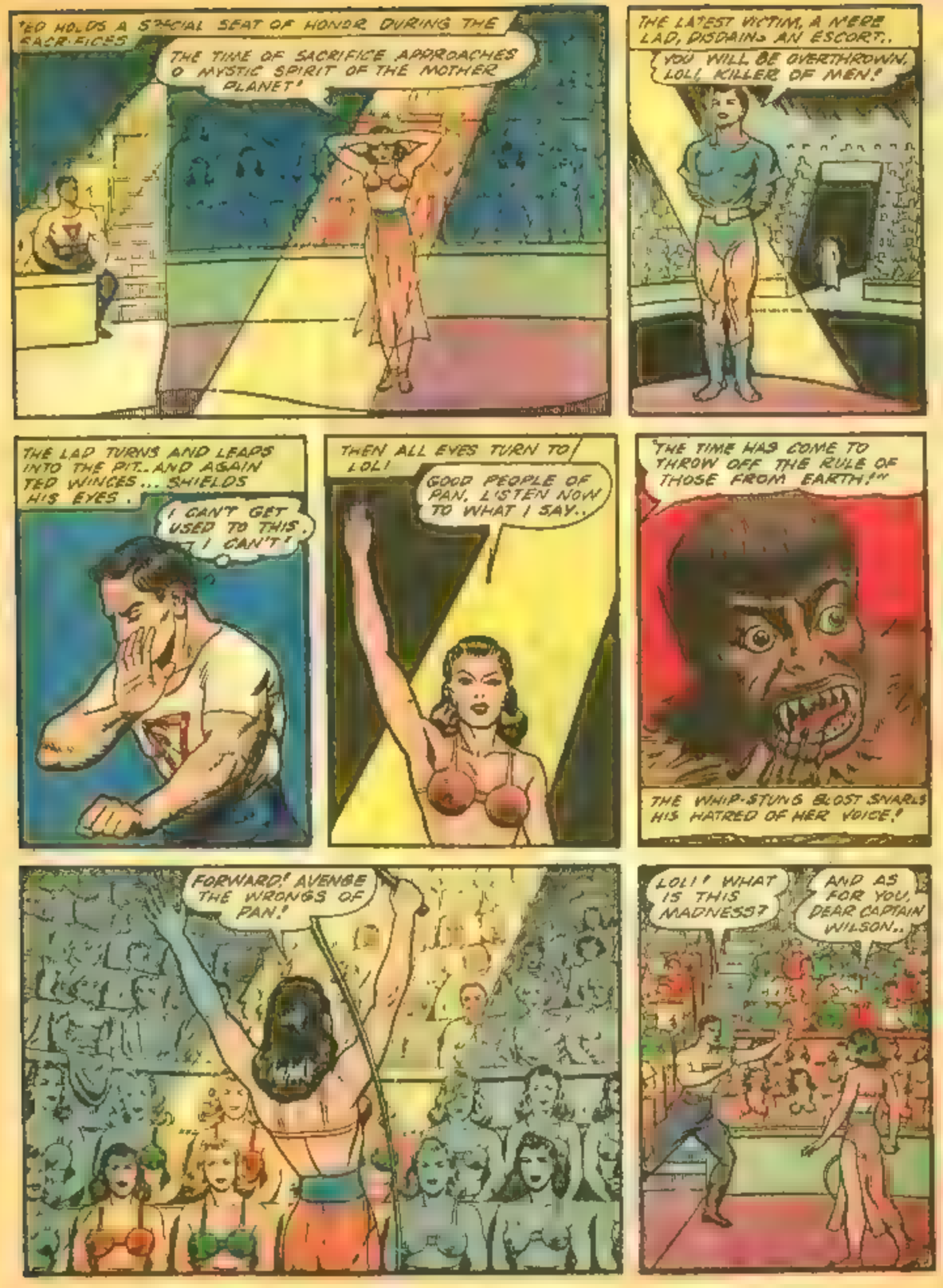

BUT, JUST AS THE SEARING RAY LEAPS FORTH, THE BODY OF HUNT BOWMAN COMES ALIVE!
YOU MISSED! BUT I WON'T!
AND HIS TRUSTY HUNTING KNIFE WHIRS TRUE.
UGK!
VALGO RUSHES IN.
HE'S A LESK, DALGO ONE OF THE VOLTA MEN'S ALLIES WHO LATER REVOLTED. THAT THING ON HIS BACK IS A PORTABLE SPEAKER. QUICK, LET'S FIND THE GIRLS..
THEY HALT, AGHAST AT WHAT THEY SEE IN AN INNER COURT..THE MAIDENS WHO HAD GONE TO THE LESK TEN YEARS AGO..TEN YEARS OF HORROR, AND FINALLY, DEATH...
OH HUNT.. I THOUGHT YOU WERE DEAD!
I'M SORRY LYSSA, IT WAS PART OF THE PLAN DALGO AND I WORKED OUT!
THE LESK MUST HAVE BEEN WOUNDED IN THE REVOLT SO HE HID FROM THE VOLTAS... THEY SAY THE LESKS LIVE MORE THAN A THOUSAND YEARS..
WE WILL ALWAYS BE GRATEFUL.. YOU SAVED US TEN YEARS OF LIVING DEATH.. AND THE INVISIBLE ONE WILL NO LONGER BE A TERRIBLE SHADOW ACROSS OUR LIVES!
ANOTHER THRILLING ADVENTURE OF HUNT AND LYSSA IN THE LOST WORLD WILL APPEAR IN THE NEXT PLANET COMICS!

MARS
By ROSS GALLUN


A SPACE SHIP, BEARING A RECRUIT FOR THE PLANETARY POLICE, PLUNGES TOWARD PAN, A MINOR MOON OF SATURN...
AT THE MAIN BASE OF THE EARTH COLONY TED WILSON RECEIVES HIS ORDERS..
A LONELY OUTPOST WILSON.. LAST REMNANT OF A SAVAGE CULT. WE'VE DISCOURAGED IT.. SHOULDN'T GIVE YOU ANY TROUBLE.
THIS MEANS A LOT TO ME, SIR!
AN HOUR'S RIDE IN A FAST ROCKET CAR, AND TED IS SURVEYING HIS TERRITORY
MAN ALIVE! THAT'S SOME TEMPLE!
MIGHT AS WELL DROP IN AND SEE WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT.
BUT, INSIDE, TED HALTS, SPEECHLESS AT THE ANCIENT GRANDEUR.
THE TIME OF SACRIFICE APPROACHES, OH MYSTIC SPIRIT OF THE MOTHER PLANET!

TED'S EYES CANNOT LEAVE THE HIGH PRIESTESS... HE IS SMITTEN BY AN AGE-OLD FORCE... LOVE!
BRING NOW THE OFFERING!
BUT AS HE FINDS A SEAT
THOU ART HONORED!
WH-WHAT'S THAT THING DOWN IN THE PIT?
HORRIFIED, TED RECOGNIZES THE NEARLY EXTINCT BLOST ONCE THE TERROR OF PAN!
OLD DECREPIT, THE BLOST IS STUNG INTO ACTIVITY BY THE HIGH PRIESTESS'S ELECTRIC WHIP!
AWAKE AND EAT, YOU BRUTE!
GRUMBLING AND SNARLING THE AWAKENED BEAST ADVANCES ON ITS HELPLESS VICTIM..
HELP! MERCY!
TOO LATE TO ACT, TED CANNOT BEAR TO WATCH.
AAAHH!
3

AFTERWARDS HE VISITS HIGH PRIESTESS LOLI, INTENDING TO BE STERN ..
A HORRIBLE PRACTICE! I'M GOING TO REPORT..ER THAT IS ..UH..
REPORT, DEAR CAPTAIN WILSON? BUT WHY?
FAR AWAY MARS CATCHES THAT FAINT WHISPER OF LOVE..
SHE COULD CONTROL THAT PLANET THROUGH HIM!
AND THE GOD OF WAR ENTERS THE HIGH PRIESTESS'S BODY!
DEAR CAPTAIN WILSON.. YOU WOULDN'T REPORT US, WOULD YOU?
LOLI'S FIRST STEP IS CONQUEST.
YOU DARLING!
CAPTAIN WILSON.. DEAR!
HER NEXT STEP IS..
I CAN'T BEAR THIS PERSECUTION OF MY RELIGION!
BUT DEAREST I CAN FIX THAT!
AND FIX IT HE DOES. ONE RULE AFTER ANOTHER IS BROKEN.. TED FAILS TO REPORT IT, FAILS TO ACT, HELPLESS IN HIS LOVE FOR LOLI..
AND THE CULT'S FOLLOWING GROWS...


TED HOLDS A SPECIAL SEAT OF HONOR DURING THE SACRIFICES
THE TIME OF SACRIFICE APPROACHES O MYSTIC SPIRIT OF THE MOTHER PLANET!
THE LATEST VICTIM, A MERE LAD, DISDAINS AN ESCORT..
YOU WILL BE OVERTHROWN, LOLI, KILLER OF MEN!
THE LAD TURNS AND LEAPS INTO THE PIT..AND AGAIN TED WINCES... SHIELDS HIS EYES.
I CAN'T GET USED TO THIS. I CAN'T!
THEN ALL EYES TURN TO LOLI
GOOD PEOPLE OF PAN, LISTEN NOW TO WHAT I SAY..
"THE TIME HAS COME TO THROW OFF THE RULE OF THOSE FROM EARTH!"
THE WHIP-STUNG GLOST SNARLS HIS HATRED OF HER VOICE!
FORWARD! AVENGE THE WRONGS OF PAN!
LOLI! WHAT IS THIS MADNESS?
AND AS FOR YOU, DEAR CAPTAIN WILSON..

YOU'VE SERVED YOUR PURPOSE.. YOU CAN ONLY HINDER US NOW!
AND THE DREAD ELECTRIC WHIP LASHES OUT!
LOLI! NO!
TOUCH ME NO MORE, EARTHLING!
THROW HIM IN THE PIT!
SUCH A FALL, IN EARTH'S GRAVITY COULD BE FATAL.. IT ONLY STUNS TED.
FORWARD TO OUR DESTINY! FORM OUTSIDE THE TEMPLE FOR THE ATTACK!
AND OUR ATTACK IS AGAINST THE MAIN EARTH BASE ON PAN!
MEANWHILE, IN THE PIT, THE BLOST MOVES EAGERLY TOWARD THIS EXTRA MEAL..

GROGGILY TED LIFTS HIS HEAD.
YE GADS! AND I'M ALONE IN THE PIT!
TED'S FIRST REACTION IS PANIC!
THERE'S NO ESCAPE!
THEN HIS SENSES RETURN.
US EARTHLINGS WEAR GRAVITY COMPENSATORS. TURN THEM OFF..
NOW WHAT TO DO? THAT WITCH IS STORMING THE MAIN BASE. IT'S UP TO ME.. SAY, THAT GUY DOWN THERE MIGHT BE OF SOME USE!
THE TEMPLE DOORS ARE HEAVY ON PAN, BUT NOT TO RELEASED EARTH MUSCLES
IF ONLY THAT BLOST DOESN'T GO TO SLEEP ON ME!
..AND OUR EARTH MUSCLES GIVE US AN ADVANTAGE! UP WITH YOU, WILSON. AH! MADE IT!
THERE'S A RAMP FOR YOU, MR BLOST.. NOW LET'S PLAY TAG!

OUT OF THE TEMPLE THEY BURST! THE CHASE IS ON!
C'MON, BOY! EARTH MUSCLES DON'T GIVE ME MUCH LEAD!
THE MAIN BASE FIGHTS BACK GAMELY, BUT IT LOOKS BAD. THERE ARE SO MANY. .
AND THEN TED ARRIVES. IN A HURRY THE ATTACKER'S WAVER AND SCATTER!
THE BLOST!
SAVE US!
IT IS A SIGN WE DO WRONG!
BUT THE MONSTER SWERVES . TO THE THING HE HATES MOST!
HELP! HELP! OHH!
MARS HAS TO LEAP FOR HIS VERY LIFE!
HOW DID THIS HAPPEN?
A RAY BLASTS OUT FROM THE MAIN BASE . . AND THE LAST BLOST DIES IN AGONY!
CAN YOU FORGIVE ME? I MUST HAVE BEEN MAD!
WE HAVE MUCH TO REBUILD, LOU!
BAH! LOVE! BAH! PEACE!
MARS BLOOD SMEARED GAUNTLETS REACH OUT FOR ANOTHER TOO PEACEFUL WORLD IN NEXT MONTH'S PLANET COMICS!

PLANET COMICS GOES ON SALE THE 10th

GALE and the ALIEN GIRL SQUADRON

By DOUGLASS McKEE

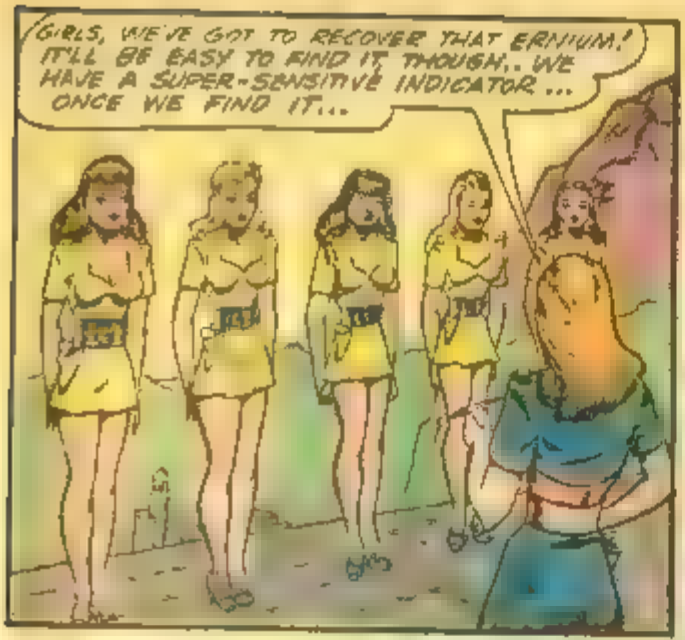
IT SEEMED LIKE AN EASY JOB FOR GALE AND HER GIRLS... IT TURNED OUT TO BE PLENTY TOUGH. HORRIBLE DEATH LURKED AMID THE CRAGS OF JUPITER - AND THERE WERE HUMAN COMPLICATIONS.

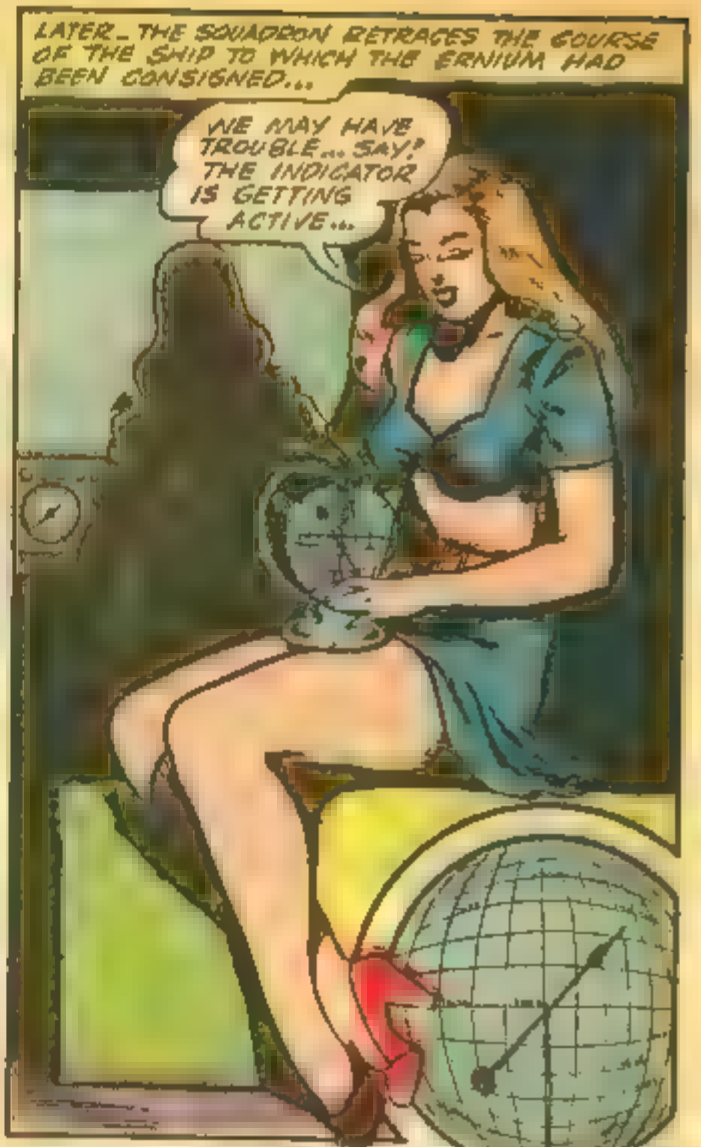
A SHIPMENT OF PRECIOUS ERNIUM HAS JUST ARRIVED AT JANAM.. GALE STANDS BY WHILE THE SEAL IS BROKEN

YOU'LL FIND ALL IS IN ORDER!

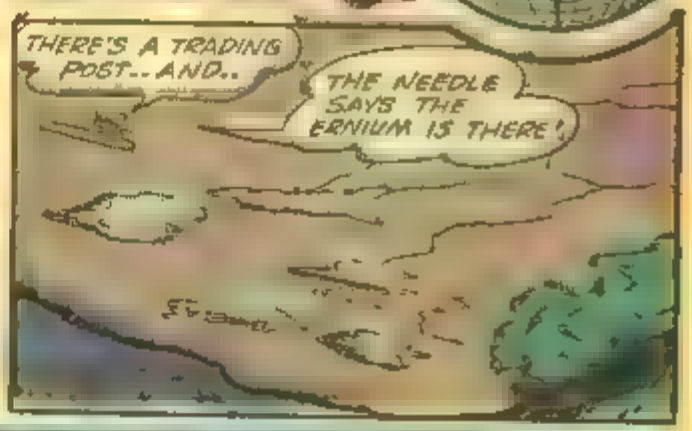
BUT_WHERE IS THE ERNIUM?

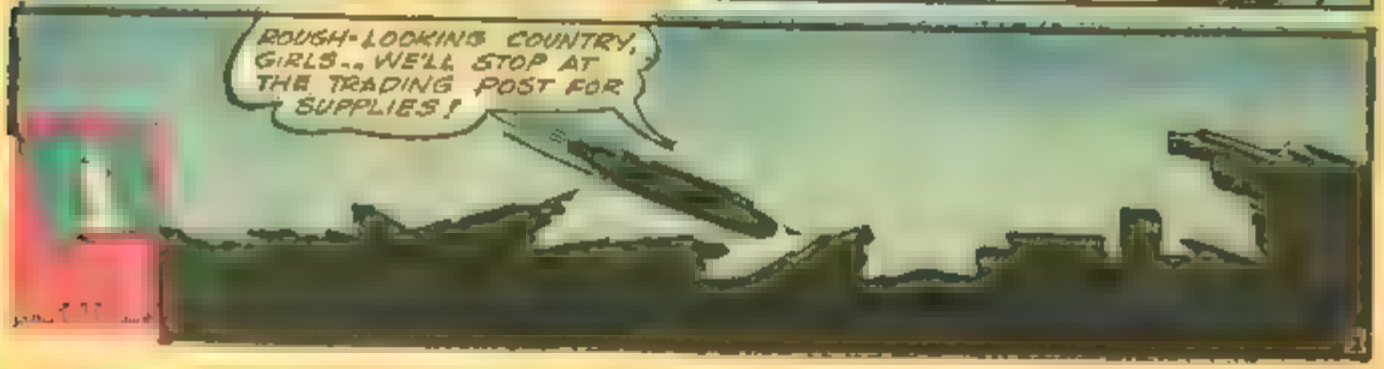
STOLEN! AND I AM HELD RESPONSIBLE!


GIRLS, WE'VE GOT TO RECOVER THAT ERNIUM! IT'LL BE EASY TO FIND IT THOUGH.. WE HAVE A SUPER-SENSITIVE INDICATOR ... ONCE WE FIND IT...


LATER.. THE SQUADRON RETRACES THE COURSE OF THE SHIP TO WHICH THE ERNIUM HAD BEEN CONSIGNED...
WE MAY HAVE TROUBLE... SAY! THE INDICATOR IS GETTING ACTIVE...

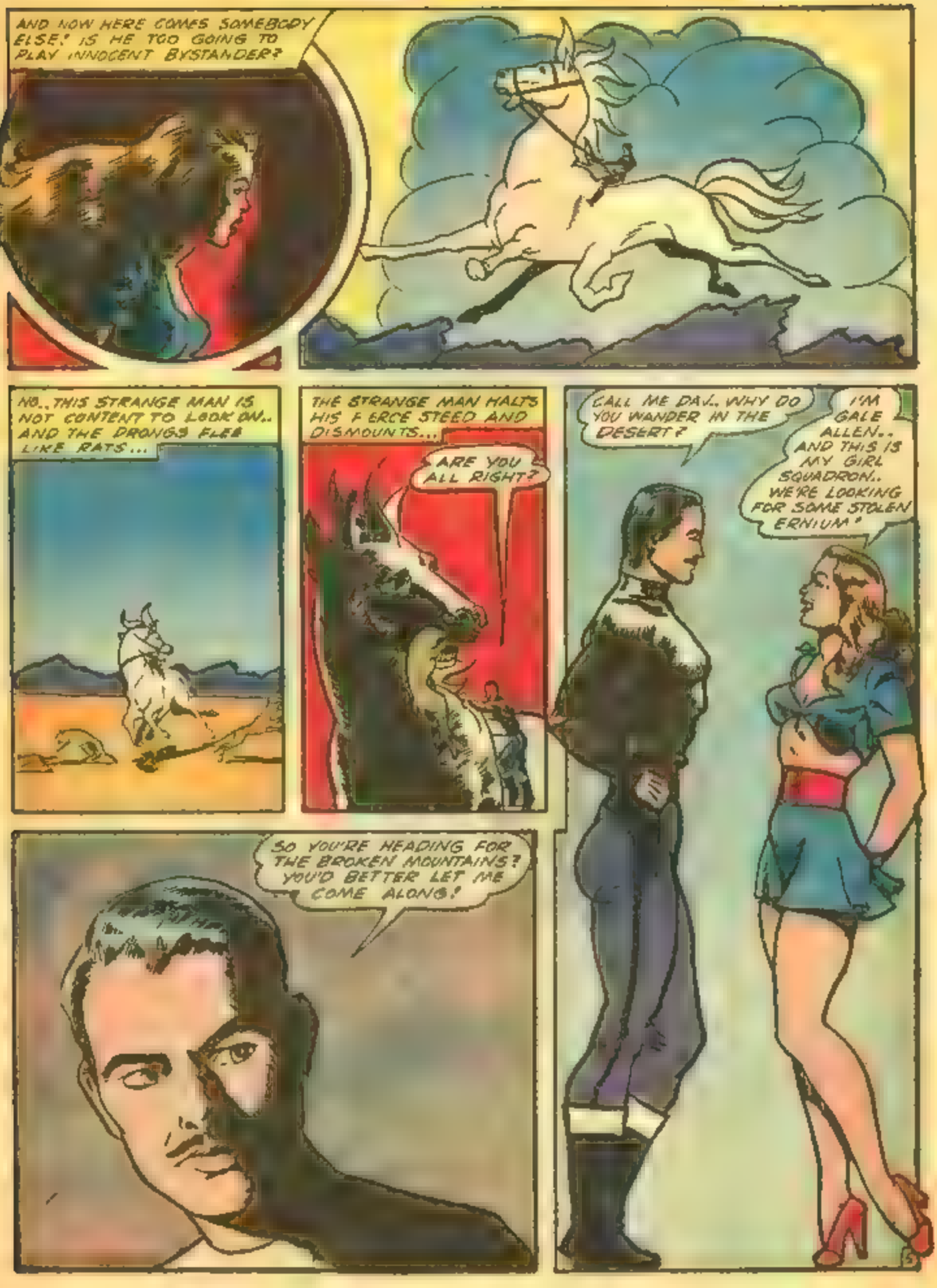
THE ERNIUM'S ON JUPITER! NOW WHERE ON THAT TREMENDOUS GLOBE?


THERE'S A TRADING POST.. AND..
THE NEEDLE SAYS THE ERNIUM IS THERE!


ROUGH-LOOKING COUNTRY, GIRLS.. WE'LL STOP AT THE TRADING POST FOR SUPPLIES!

WHAT DO WE NEED FOR CROSSING THE DESERT?
LOOKING FOR THAT ERNIUM, EH? I WAS AFRAID THEY HAD AN INDICATOR.. NOW I'LL HAVE TO ACT!
ER..YES.. HERE'S SOMETHING YOU'LL HAVE TO HAVE..
THE DRONGS ARE BAD OUT HERE. BUT THESE NOISE-MAKERS WILL DRIVE THEM AWAY!
ALL RIGHT, GIVE ME SOME!
THE SQUADRON SHIP MAKES A SHORT HOP TOWARD THE HILLS..
WAIT, GALE! THERE MUST BE SOME DRONGS LURKING OVER THERE!
OKAY.. BREAK OUT THE NOISEMAKERS!
..AND LANDS AS NEAR TO THE ERNIUM AS POSSIBLE..
WE HAVEN'T FAR TO GO NOW.. BRING THE INDICATOR!
LET'S GO GIRLS!
BUT THE DRONGS DO NOT SEEM TO BE FRIGHTENED AWAY...

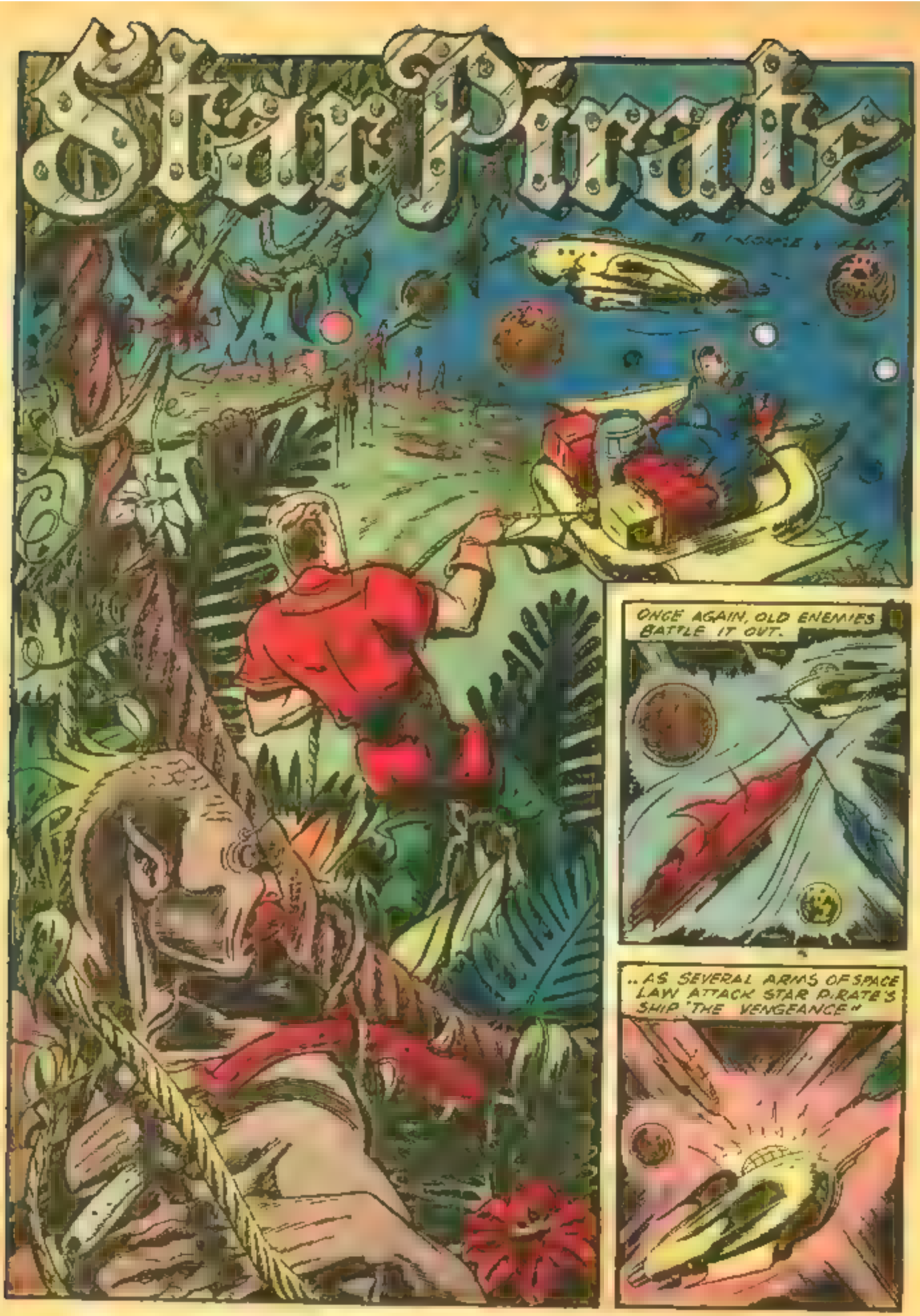
THE TRADER LIED! THE RATTLES ONLY ATTRACT AND INFURIATE THE DRONGS!
GALE, WE'RE CUT OFF FROM THE SHIP!
MAKE FOR THE ROCKS.. I'LL HOLD THEM OFF!
BUT THEN GALE STUMBLES... AND GOES DOWN..
WE'LL NEVER KILL THEM ALL!
CONCENTRATE YOUR FIRE AROUND GALE!
STEADY, GALE, WE HAVE YOU!
UGH.. THEY'RE NASTY THINGS!
NOTHING TO DO BUT WAIT FOR THEM TO GO AWAY!
BUT THEY'RE WAITING FOR US TOO.. AND WELL OUT OF RANGE!
I'M GETTING THIRSTY WHAT'S THAT?
BUT IN THE SHIP ABOVE
SAVED AT LAST! OR ARE WE?
WHY DON'T THEY COME DOWN..OR SIGNAL US?
IF THE DRONGS FAIL I CAN TRY SOMETHING ELSE!

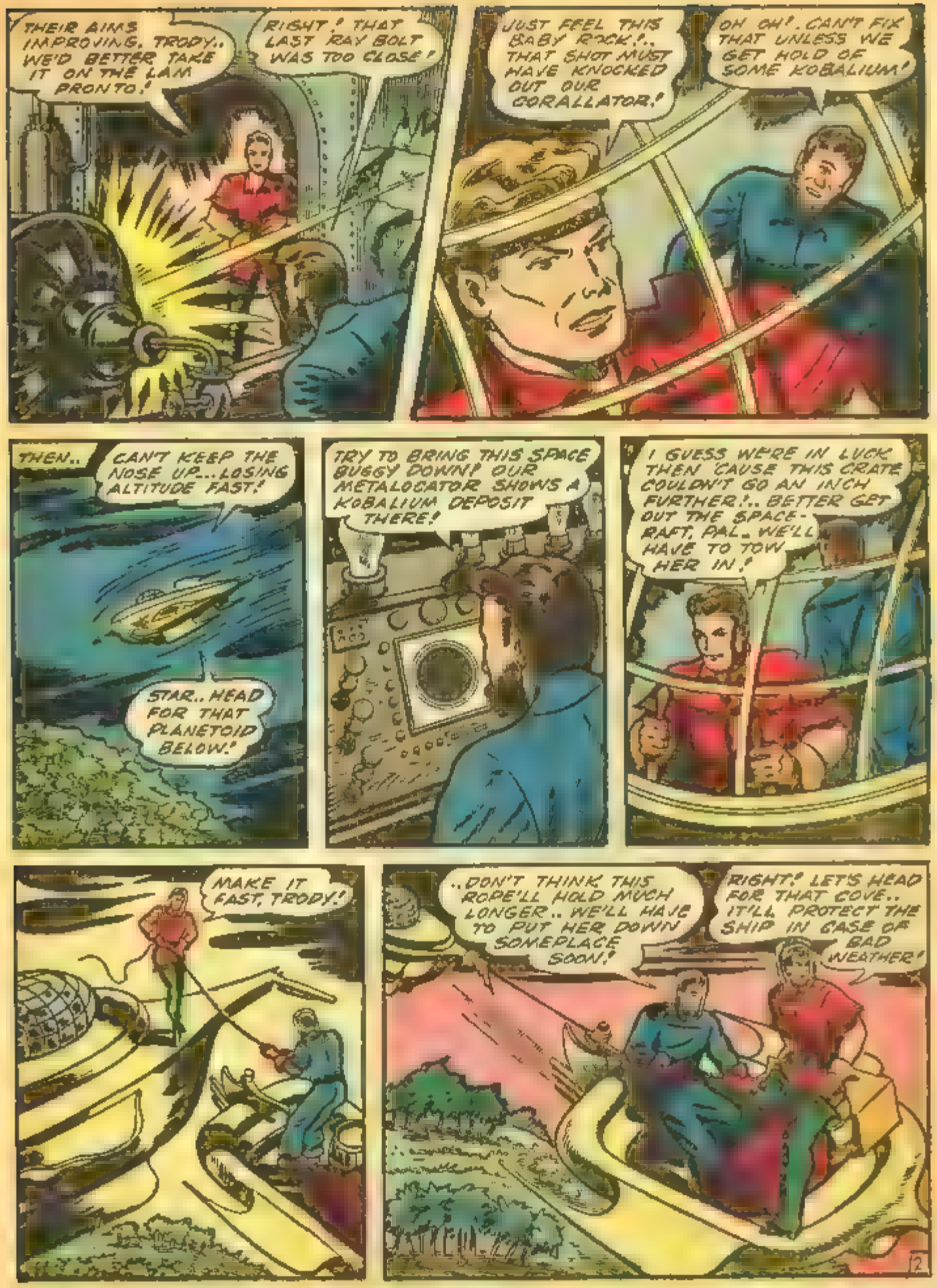

AND NOW HERE COMES SOMEBODY ELSE! IS HE TOO GOING TO PLAY INNOCENT BYSTANDER?
NO.. THIS STRANGE MAN IS NOT CONTENT TO LOOK ON.. AND THE DRONGS FLEE LIKE RATS...
THE STRANGE MAN HALTS HIS FIERCE STEED AND DISMOUNTS...
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
CALL ME DAV.. WHY DO YOU WANDER IN THE DESERT?
I'M GALE ALLEN.. AND THIS IS MY GIRL SQUADRON.. WE'RE LOOKING FOR SOME STOLEN ERNIUM!
SO YOU'RE HEADING FOR THE BROKEN MOUNTAINS? YOU'D BETTER LET ME COME ALONG!

YOU AND THE GIRLS HAD BETTER RIDE MY STRAG.. IT WON'T HURT YOU!
BUT IT'S SO HUGE
SUDDENLY GALE REMEMBERS
D A V STANDS FOR DANIEL A VINCENT, DOESN'T IT?
YES, WANTED FOR MURDER, AND YOU'RE THE POLICE!
NOT QUITE.. ANYWAY YOU'RE BEING SUCH A HELP WE OUGHT TO DECLARE A TRUCE—
THANKS!
LEAVING THE STRAG, THEY ENTER AN AWESOME CANYON..
THE INDICATOR POINTS TO THE FALLS.. COULD THE ERNIUM BE BEHIND THAT?
PHEW! THE HEAT! BUT THE ERNIUM IS HERE ALL RIGHT
THIS ROCK MAY COVER A WAY BEHIND THE FALLS!
LOOK OUT, EVERYBODY.. LOOK OUT!
IT'S THAT SAME SHIP.. DUCK!
I KNOW.. BELONGS TO GUTH THE TRADER!

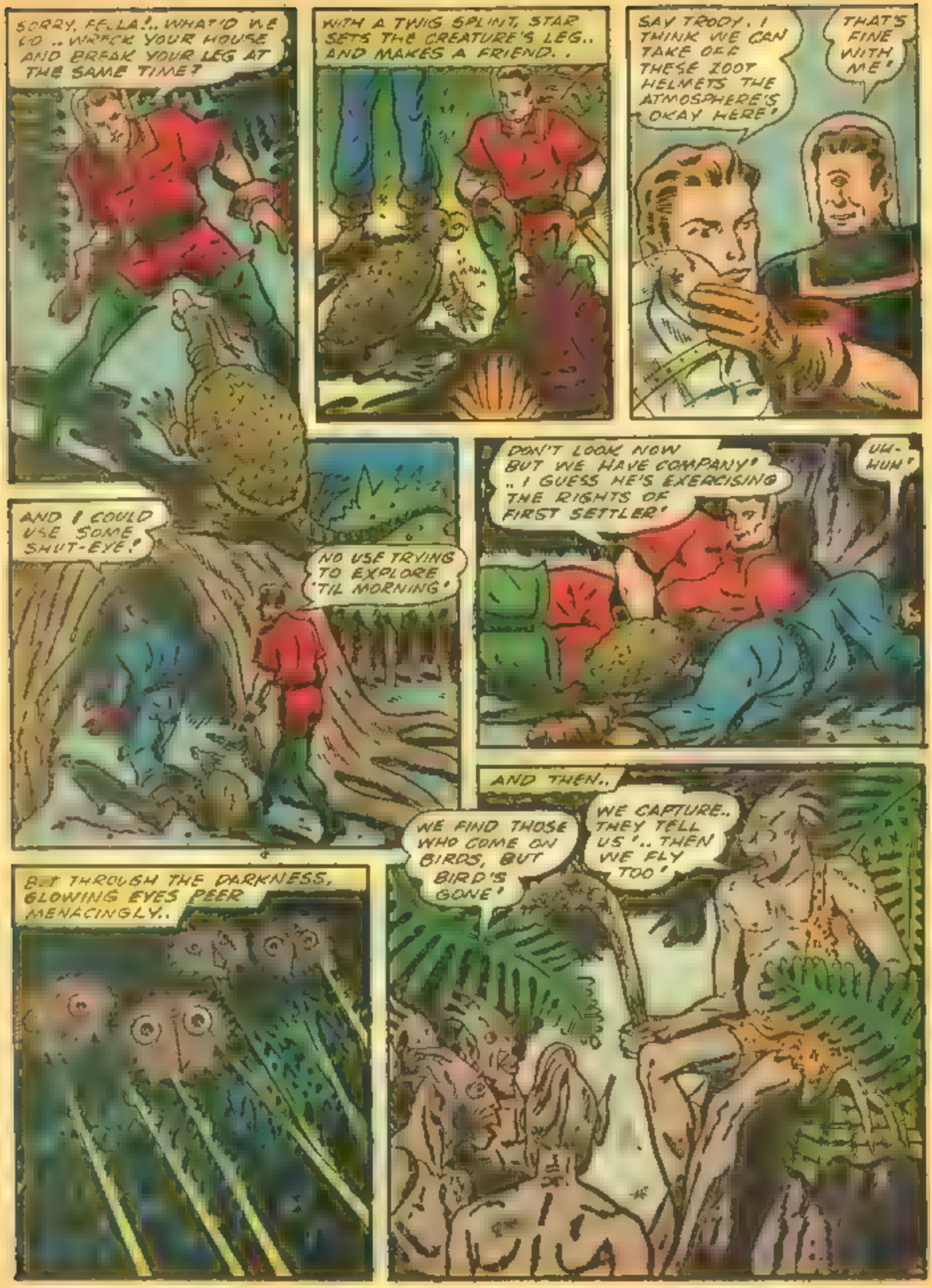
NOT MUCH PROTECTION HERE!
HE'S COMING BACK HE'LL NOT LEAVE ANY OF US ALIVE! THIS VINE'S MY ONLY CHANCE!
THIS CAN BE A TRAP FOR YOU JUST AS WELL AS FOR US!
CAUGHT IN A MESH OF STOUT VINES, THE SHIP SWINGS LIKE A WHIP AGAINST THE CANYON WALL..
I DON'T KNOW WHAT WE'D HAVE DONE WITHOUT YOU— DAV!
I'LL JUST SHIFT THIS ROCK FOR YOU.
.AND THEN I'LL GO!
COME BACK THE TRUCE IS STILL ON!
NO, DON'T GO AFTER HIM.. HE'S EARNED HIS FREEDOM FOR A LITTLE LONGER!
BUT HE WAS SO HANDSOME, GALE!
GALE AND HER GIRLS FOLLOW A DIM TRAIL, BUT ONE BLAZED WITH BLOOD AND HORROR. IN THE NEXT .PLANET COMICS!

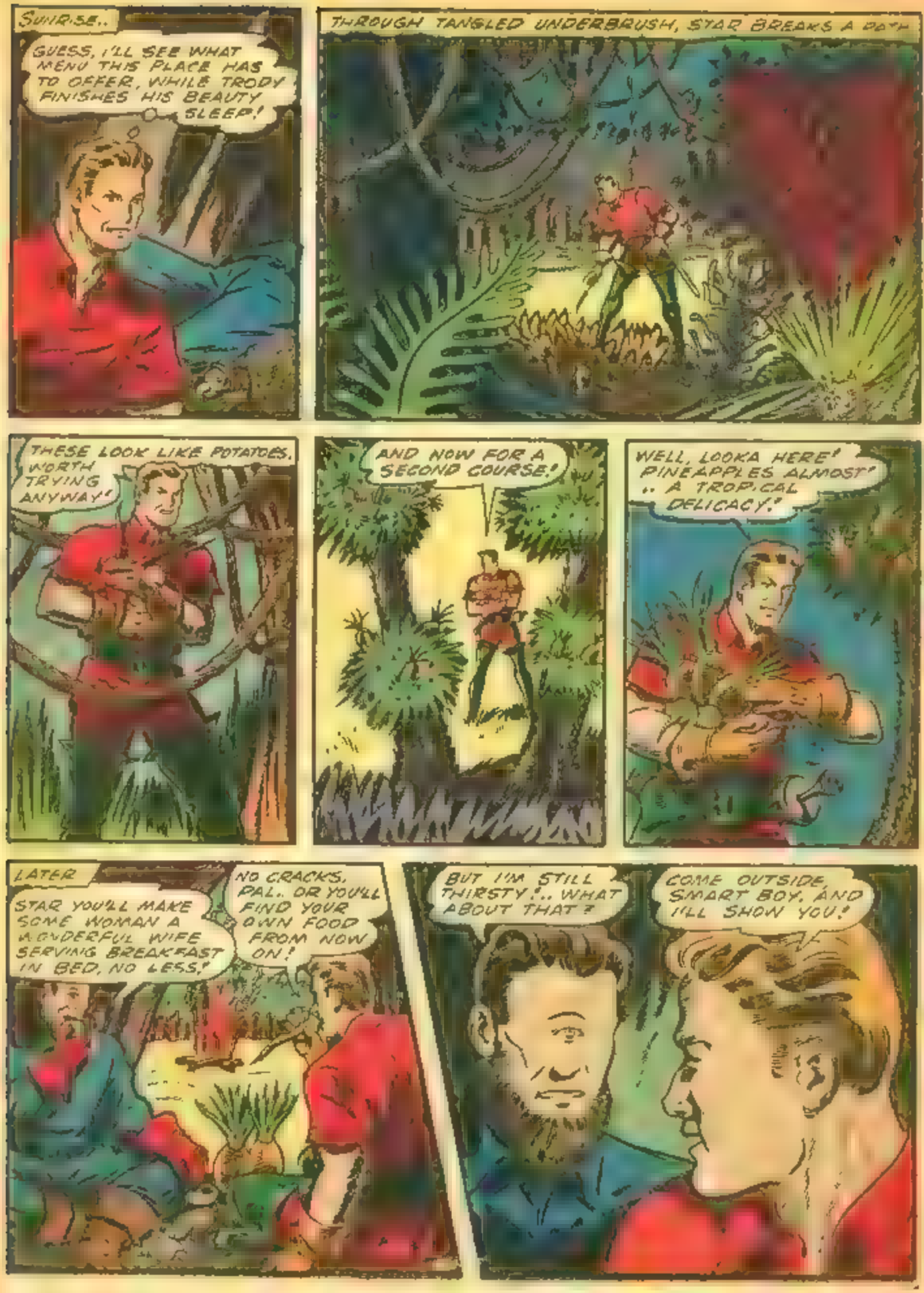
Star Pirate


ONCE AGAIN, OLD ENEMIES BATTLE IT OUT.
..AS SEVERAL ARMS OF SPACE LAW ATTACK STAR PIRATE'S SHIP "THE VENGEANCE"

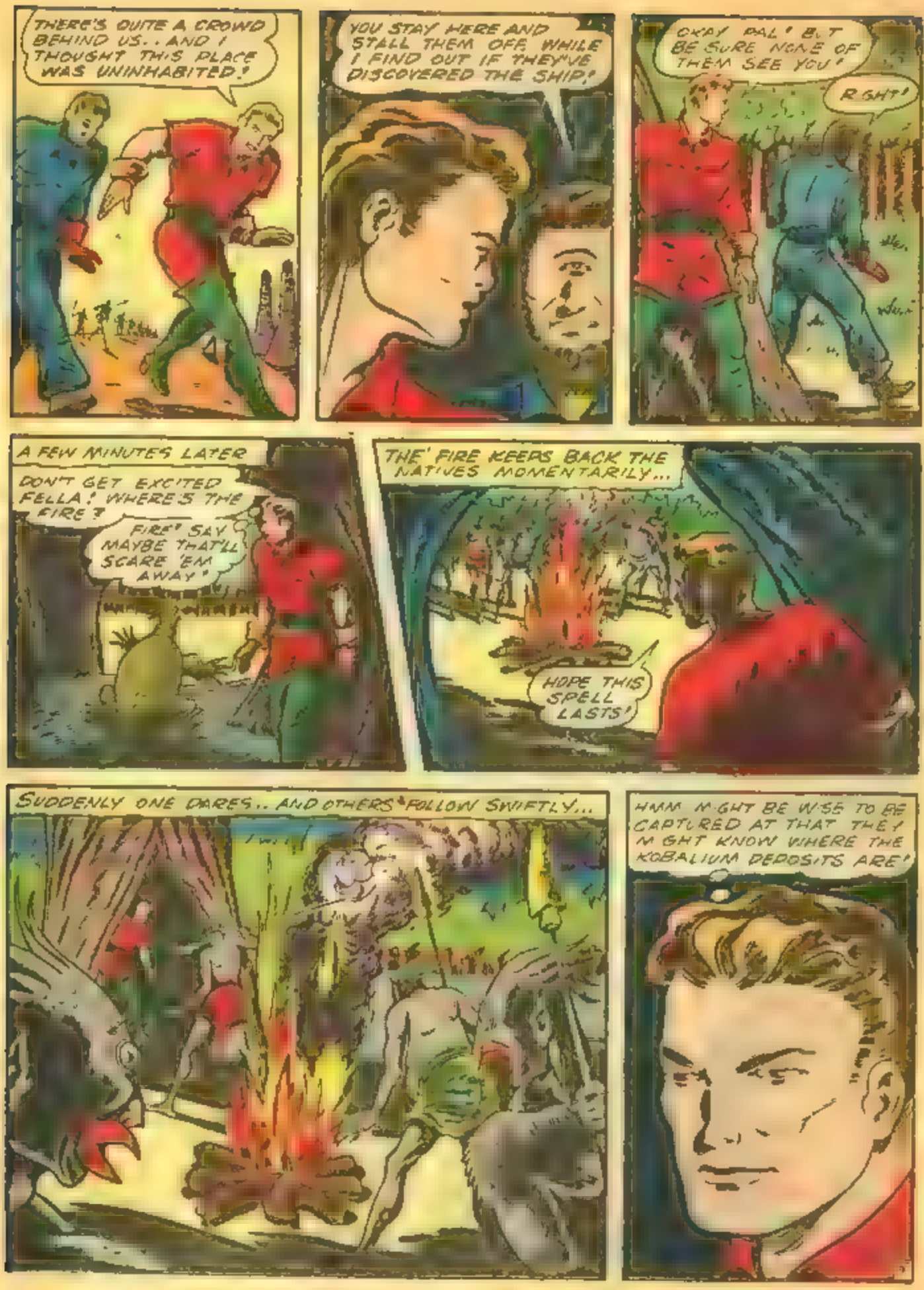

THEIR AIMS IMPROVING, TRODY.. WE'D BETTER TAKE IT ON THE LAM PRONTO!
RIGHT! THAT LAST RAY BOLT WAS TOO CLOSE!
JUST FEEL THIS BABY ROCK!.. THAT SHOT MUST HAVE KNOCKED OUT OUR CORALLATOR!
OH OH!. CAN'T FIX THAT UNLESS WE GET HOLD OF SOME KOBALIUM!
THEN..
CAN'T KEEP THE NOSE UP...LOSING ALTITUDE FAST!
STAR.. HEAD FOR THAT PLANETOID BELOW!
TRY TO BRING THIS SPACE BUGGY DOWN! OUR METALOCATOR SHOWS A KOBALIUM DEPOSIT THERE!
I GUESS WE'RE IN LUCK THEN 'CAUSE THIS CRATE COULDN'T GO AN INCH FURTHER!.. BETTER GET OUT THE SPACE-RAFT, PAL.. WE'LL HAVE TO TOW HER IN!
MAKE IT FAST, TRODY!
..DON'T THINK THIS ROPE'LL HOLD MUCH LONGER.. WE'LL HAVE TO PUT HER DOWN SOMEPLACE SOON!
RIGHT! LET'S HEAD FOR THAT COVE.. IT'LL PROTECT THE SHIP IN CASE OF BAD WEATHER!
12

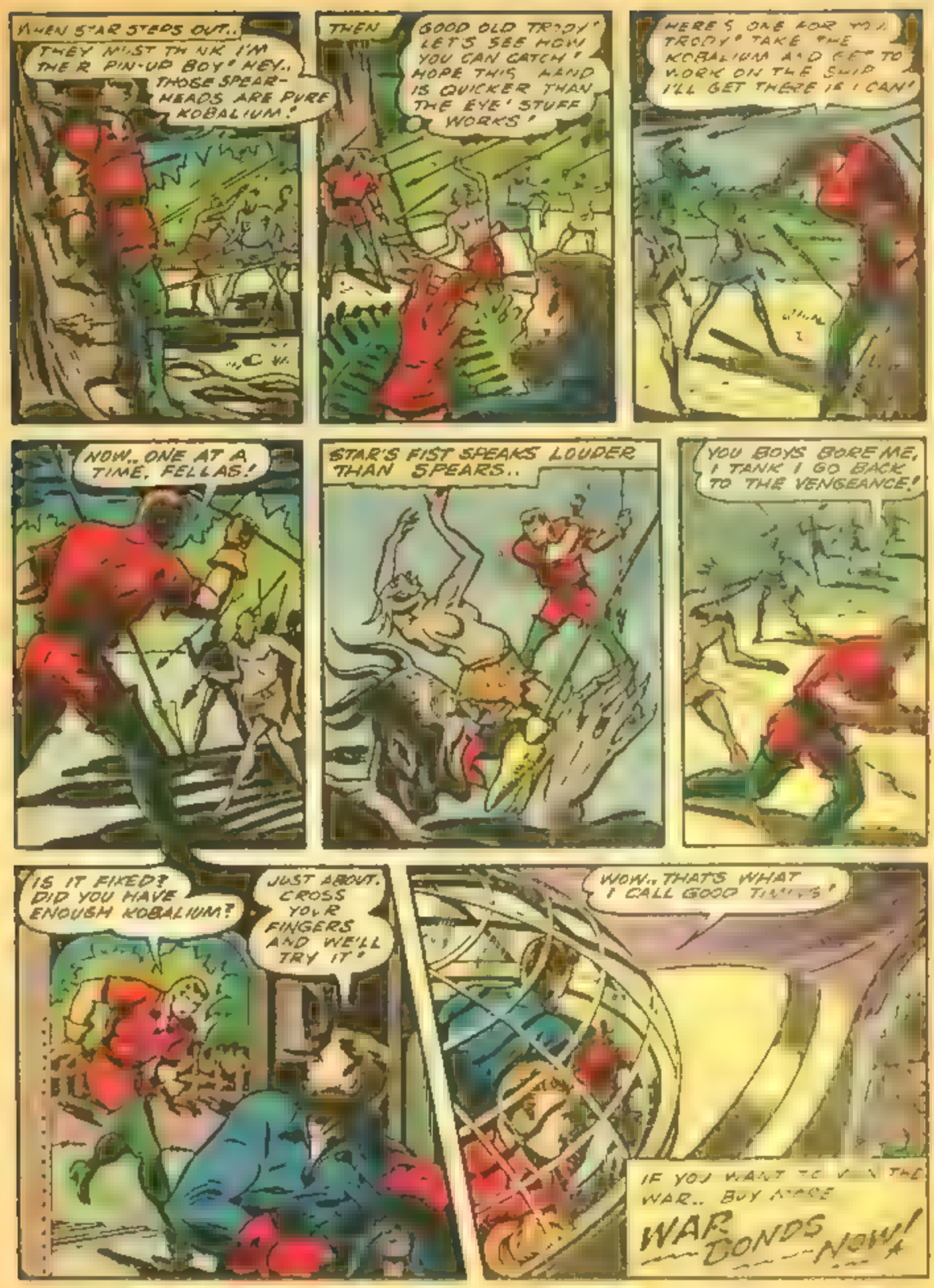
THE RAFT'S SPEED SLACKENS..
..AND THE VENGEANCE BUMPS TO A LANDING..
YOO..HEAVE HO!.. TROOY, YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO LOSE SOME WEIGHT BEFORE I DO THIS AGAIN!
A FEW MINUTES LATER..
FIRST WE'D BETTER FIND A SHELTER!.. EVEN WITH LUCK, WE'LL BE HERE SOME TIME!
HOW ABOUT THAT TREE, STAR?. WE COULD HOLLOW IT OUT!
GOOD IDEA!
SO, WITH THE LAST CHARGES OF POWER FROM THEIR RAY-GUNS...
WELL, LOOK WHAT'S HERE! AND IS HE SWEARING AT US!


SORRY, FELLA!.. WHAT'D WE DO .. WRECK YOUR HOUSE AND BREAK YOUR LEG AT THE SAME TIME?
WITH A TWIG SPLINT, STAR SETS THE CREATURE'S LEG.. AND MAKES A FRIEND..
SAY TROOY.. I THINK WE CAN TAKE OFF THESE ZOOT HELMETS THE ATMOSPHERE'S OKAY HERE'
THAT'S FINE WITH ME'
AND I COULD USE SOME SHUT-EYE!
NO USE TRYING TO EXPLORE 'TIL MORNING'
DON'T LOOK NOW BUT WE HAVE COMPANY' .. I GUESS HE'S EXERCISING THE RIGHTS OF FIRST SETTLER'
UH-HUH'
AND THEN..
WE FIND THOSE WHO COME ON BIRDS, BUT BIRD'S GONE'
WE CAPTURE.. THEY TELL US'.. THEN WE FLY TOO'
BUT THROUGH THE DARKNESS, GLOWING EYES PEER MENACINGLY..


SUNRISE..
GUESS, I'LL SEE WHAT MENU THIS PLACE HAS TO OFFER, WHILE TRODY FINISHES HIS BEAUTY SLEEP!
THROUGH TANGLED UNDERBRUSH, STAR BREAKS A PATH
THESE LOOK LIKE POTATOES. WORTH TRYING ANYWAY!
AND NOW FOR A SECOND COURSE!
WELL, LOOKA HERE! PINEAPPLES ALMOST! .. A TROPICAL DELICACY!
LATER
STAR YOU'LL MAKE SOME WOMAN A WONDERFUL WIFE SERVING BREAKFAST IN BED, NO LESS!
NO CRACKS, PAL.. OR YOU'LL FIND YOUR OWN FOOD FROM NOW ON!
BUT I'M STILL THIRSTY!.. WHAT ABOUT THAT?
COME OUTSIDE, SMART BOY, AND I'LL SHOW YOU!

HOW'S THAT FOR A CONTRAPTION? ..NOTHING BUT SALT WATER HERE SO WITH SOME EXTRA TUBING FROM THE SHIP, A FEW DROPS OF ALIUM AND HEAT.. WE MAKE OUR OWN SPRING WATER!
SAY THIS IS ALL RIGHT!
WELL, DRINK UP!.. WE'VE GOT TO HUNT FOR THE KOBALIUM THAT'S SUPPOSED TO BE HERE!
LEAVING SOME FOOD FOR THEIR SELF-APPOINTED WATCH-DOG, THE SPACE PALS START OUT!
HOURS LATER..
WONDER WHEN WE HIT BOTTOM, OR DO YOU DIG ME?
I DON'T GET IT.. IGNEOUS MATTER LIKE THIS IS GENERALLY FULL OF KOBALIUM!
FUNNY! I'VE GOT THAT CRAZY FEELIN' THAT SOMETHING'S WATCHING US!
FORGET IT! C'MON, LET'S TRY OVER THERE!
THEN...
TRODY! TROUBLE AHEAD.. WE'D BETTER MAKE TRACKS!
THE TREE.. OUR ONLY CHANCE!
RIGHT!. WITHOUT WEAPONS WE'D BE DEAD DUCKS!


THERE'S QUITE A CROWD BEHIND US..AND I THOUGHT THIS PLACE WAS UNINHABITED!
YOU STAY HERE AND STALL THEM OFF WHILE I FIND OUT IF THEY'VE DISCOVERED THE SHIP!
OKAY PAL! BUT BE SURE NONE OF THEM SEE YOU!
RIGHT!
A FEW MINUTES LATER
DON'T GET EXCITED FELLA! WHERE'S THE FIRE?
FIRE! SAY MAYBE THAT'LL SCARE 'EM AWAY!
THE FIRE KEEPS BACK THE NATIVES MOMENTARILY...
HOPE THIS SPELL LASTS!
SUDDENLY ONE DARES..AND OTHERS FOLLOW SWIFTLY...
HMM MIGHT BE WISE TO BE CAPTURED AT THAT THEY MIGHT KNOW WHERE THE KOBALIUM DEPOSITS ARE!


WHEN STAR STEPS OUT..
THEY MUST THINK I'M THE R PIN-UP BOY! HEY.. THOSE SPEAR-HEADS ARE PURE KOBALIUM!
THEN
GOOD OLD TROOPY! LET'S SEE HOW YOU CAN CATCH! HOPE THIS HAND IS QUICKER THAN THE EYE! STUFF WORKS!
HERE'S ONE FOR YOU TROOPY! TAKE THE KOBALIUM AND GET TO WORK ON THE SHIP I'LL GET THERE IF I CAN!
NOW.. ONE AT A TIME, FELLAS!
STAR'S FIST SPEAKS LOUDER THAN SPEARS..
YOU BOYS BORE ME, I TANK I GO BACK TO THE VENGEANCE!
IS IT FIXED? DID YOU HAVE ENOUGH KOBALIUM?
JUST ABOUT. CROSS YOUR FINGERS AND WE'LL TRY IT!
WOW.. THAT'S WHAT I CALL GOOD TIMING!
IF YOU WANT TO WIN THE WAR.. BUY A PACE
WAR BONDS NOW!

Is There A Lost Race Beneath The Polar Cap?

By Prof. THEOBALD PARKER

A FEW years ago, a group of Russian scientists sat down to a dinner of steaks cut from a hairy, prehistoric mammoth which had been discovered standing in an upright position—frozen in a glacier. It had been standing there like a sentinel of the past for, not centuries, but for millions of years. Weeks of tedious labor were involved before this visitor of the past could be freed from its ice-coffin. A great museum planned to use it as an exhibit, when, to their astonishment, they discovered that the meat was still firm and edible! *The meat was as nourishing as though the animal had been killed that very day*—kept fresh by eons of natural refrigeration!

In past years, other scientists and explorers of the Polar Region have found plants and mammals buried in the ice. Is it not possible, then, that buried deep in the ice, life may, perhaps, *exist?* The theory that a world could exist underneath the Polar Cap may, at first, seem almost impossible to believe. Many of you will scorn and scoff at such an idea. But others, perhaps more imaginative, have been thinking about this possibility, and some have reached the startling conclusion that life may actually exist beneath the white, frigid Polar Cap!

Their reasoning follows a natural, orderly pattern, with but the inevitable conclusion, as I will attempt to show. To begin, thousands upon thousands of years ago, the Polar Region was a warm, moist climate, possibly equatorial in nature. Human beings, on the approximate style of the Neanderthal man, and prehistoric animals of all descriptions abounded there, much as everywhere else on this earth. Life progressed, moved forward slowly, until one day it received a blow, a blow that almost obliterated this primitive existence for all time. For then came the Ice Age. That formidable, rolling earthwide river of ice which gradually forced the inhabitants of this planet farther and farther back, to the extreme axis of the earth, and finally covered them completely, and apparently beneath the Polar Cap! Great masses of frozen white, huge crackling

mountains of ice that moved forward relentlessly, pushing backing the stunned and terrified inhabitants, human and animal alike. Thousands were killed, frozen almost instantly by the intense cold. It was as though the Sun had fallen from the Heavens!

Yet, somehow, many of this lost race may have managed to survive. Escape to warmth was their objective, and this they may have accomplished by retreating into the great caverns that abounded in that region. These caves had been vomited up by the volcanic activity in what was then an equatorial climate. And it was to these caves, spewn by the Earth's inner heat, that the doomed race may have finally retreated to save themselves from the intense, killing cold.

Life-giving oxygen would be absolutely necessary, and this might have come from two sources. From natural air ducts in the ice ceiling, and from turgid underground rivers. Here, in the bowels of the earth, the inhabitants were temporarily safe, and great fires were kept burning, not for a night, but for centuries. And as the flames reached higher and higher, the caves became warm, although outside a cover of ice, miles deep, constantly fought to overcome the effects of the heat.

As these people of a doomed race moved forward, under the fear and stress of an icy death, they undoubtedly would have taken with them what they deemed necessary for life in a new place. Machines, if there were any in those crude days, animal skins, and food were carted into the caves that would be their homes. When they had finally all gathered in the caves, they may have started carving homes out of the huge walls. Probably no more than a room, or two rooms at the most to each family, but still an individual home. Here, the skins from the animals they had found lying dead during their nomadic wanderings to escape the cold, would have served as wall-paper to keep out their most deadly enemy—cold.

Later excursions into the ice cap that sealed them in forever, would have brought rewards. Frozen animals would have

been found every few feet. Great masses of peet for burning and vegetable food, quick-frozen, would be there for the digging.

Horror must have filled the minds of the few who escaped when they realized their plight. But, through the ages, man has always proven adaptable to whatever situation nature puts him in. And it may be that these people managed to survive through all these centuries and may even now live beneath the Polar cap.

For a picture of what they would be like now if some explorer dug deep enough into the Arctic regions and found them, it is easy to draw upon the imagination. Necessity to keep warm would be the fundamental object. Hair would cover their bodies and faces. The intense air pressure would have developed their lungs and consequently their chests to abnormal proportions, until they would look not at all unlike apes. Their legs, unused to extensive exercise, confined as they would be in their caves, would be spindly and weak. On the other hand their arms and shoulders would be extremely well developed because of the manual labor involved in getting food from their frozen refrigerators. Constant chipping away of the ice cap, digging into the ground for coal, all this would tend to develop their arm muscles.

Their eyes would be weak and watery—almost blind. The only light they would have would be from the huge fires forever kept burning throughout the caves. Their teeth would be strong and white from chewing on frozen meats, vegetables and fossils found in the ice. Whatever scientific advances that would be made would be entirely in the effort to make life more livable in their coffin of ice. Machines, made probably from ores found in the ground, would be invented to facilitate ventilation, or to dredge out supplies.

The animals, if any could have survived the intense cold, would be bushy and quite domesticated in the close quarters. Fishing in the underground rivers would be quite conceivable. Also these underground rivers would serve as ventilators, and springs.

Probably crude boats would have been made and courageous trips undertaken along these dark rushing rivers, with only wood torches by which to see. Then suddenly an impenetrable block of ice will appear before the hopefuls and they will have to turn back. Of course, it is possible that these doomed people would think that there is no other life except in their ice prison.

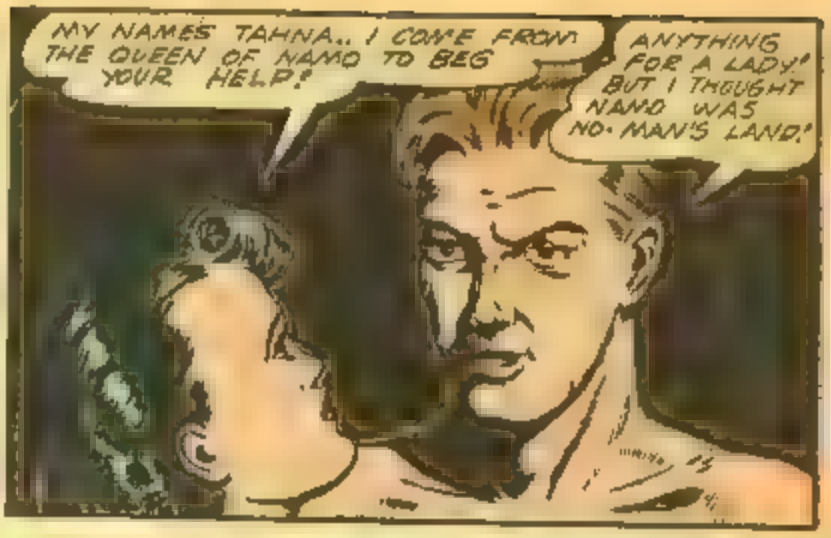
The theory of life beneath the Polar Cap has been expounded and investigated many times. Actual research is almost impossible. The ice caps are many miles deep, and for men to work in the climate that hovers over the Polar Cap is almost an impossibility. There has never been any sign of life—just bleak wind-swept ice plains, but the scientists know that eons ago the great ice cap came suddenly down from the north driving everything before it, encasing life in its grip. They know that after the glacier had passed over certain sections of the earth, life still existed. So it is only natural for them to wonder about what kind of life might have survived all these centuries and still live buried in the deep volcanic caves underneath the ice cap. Time and science will provide the answer.

ANOTHER THRILLING FUTURE-FACT ARTICLE IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF **PLANET COMICS!**

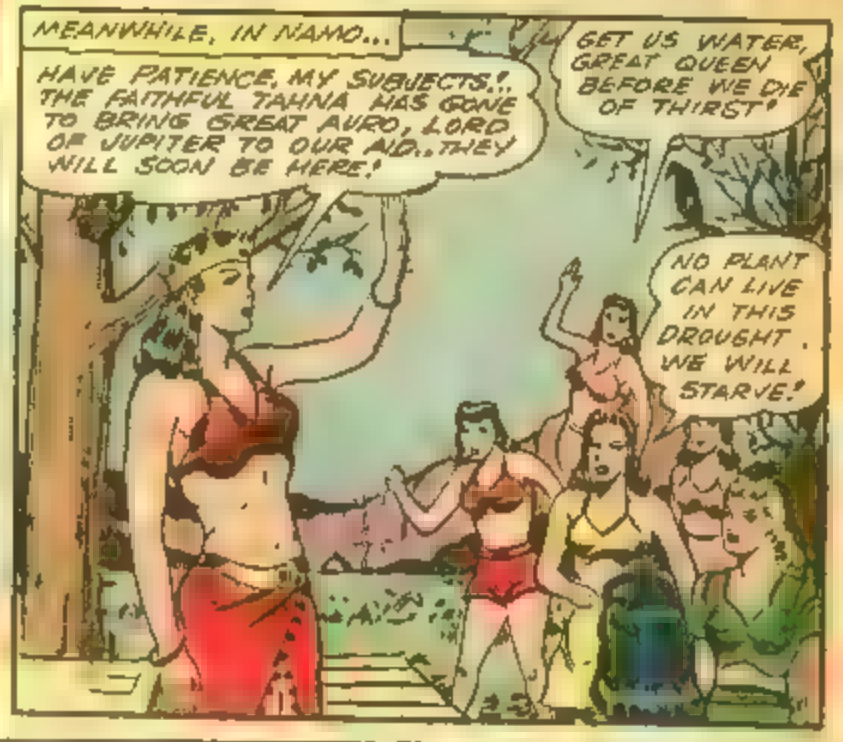
AURO Lord of Jupiter

by Norman Leslie

ONE MORNING, AS AURO FISHES IN ONE OF THE SWIFT-RUNNING CANALS THAT FEED JUPITER
THESE TROUT ARE ACTING STRANGELY.. NOT RISING AT ALL!.. AND WHAT MAKES THE WATER LEVEL SO LOW!"
JUST THEN..
HEY, STOP YELLING! YOU'RE SCARING THE FISH!



THAT'S TRUE!.. YOU WILL BE THE FIRST MAN TO ENTER OUR LANDS IN OVER TEN YEARS. BUT IF YOU CANNOT HELP US, THERE IS NO HOPE!
TELL ME YOUR STORY AS WE TRAVEL!


MEANWHILE, IN NAMO...
HAVE PATIENCE, MY SUBJECTS!.. THE FAITHFUL TAHNA HAS GONE TO BRING GREAT AURO, LORD OF JUPITER TO OUR AID.. THEY WILL SOON BE HERE!
GET US WATER, GREAT QUEEN BEFORE WE DIE OF THIRST!
NO PLANT CAN LIVE IN THIS DROUGHT. WE WILL STARVE!

STATEMENT OF THE OWNERSHIP MANAGEMENT (ACT OF MARCH 3, 1933) of PLANET COMICS published monthly at New York, N. Y. for October 1, 1941

State of New York, County of New York ss.

Before me a Notary Public in and for the State and county aforesaid, personally appeared Maurice Rose, who, having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that he is the Publisher of the Planet Comics and that the following is, to the best of his knowledge and belief, a true statement of the ownership, management (and if a daily paper, the circulation), etc., of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above caption, required by the Act of August 24, 1912, as amended by the Act of March 3, 1933, embodied in section 537, Postal Laws and Regulations, printed on the reverse of this form, to wit:

1. That the names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business managers are: Publisher, Maurice Rose, Publishing Company, Inc., 10 Eighth Avenue, New York, N. Y. Editor, Maurice Rose, 10 Eighth Avenue, New York, N. Y. Managing Editor, None. Business Manager, T. T. Scott, 10 Eighth Avenue, New York, N. Y.

2. That the owner is: (If owned by a corporation, its name and address must be stated and also immediately thereunder the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding one per cent or more of total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, the names and addresses of the individual owners must be given. If owned by a firm, company, or other unincorporated concern, its name and address, as well as those of each individual member, must be given.) Maurice Rose, Publishing Company, Inc., 10 Eighth Avenue, New York, N. Y. Scott, 10 Eighth Avenue, New York, N. Y.

3. That the known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 per cent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages or other securities are: (If there are none, so state.) None.

4. That the two paragraphs next above, giving the names of the owners, stockholders, and security holders, if any, contain not only the list of stockholders and security holders as they appear upon the books of the company but also, in cases where the stockholder or security holder appears upon the books of the company as trustee or in any other fiduciary relation, the name of the person or corporation for whom such trustee is acting, is given; also that the said two paragraphs contain statements embracing affiant's full knowledge and belief as to the circumstances and conditions under which stockholders and security holders who do not appear upon the books of the company as trustees, hold stock and securities in a capacity other than that of a bona fide owner; and this affiant has no reason to believe that any other person, association, or corporation has any interest direct or indirect in the said stock, bonds, or other securities than as so stated by him.

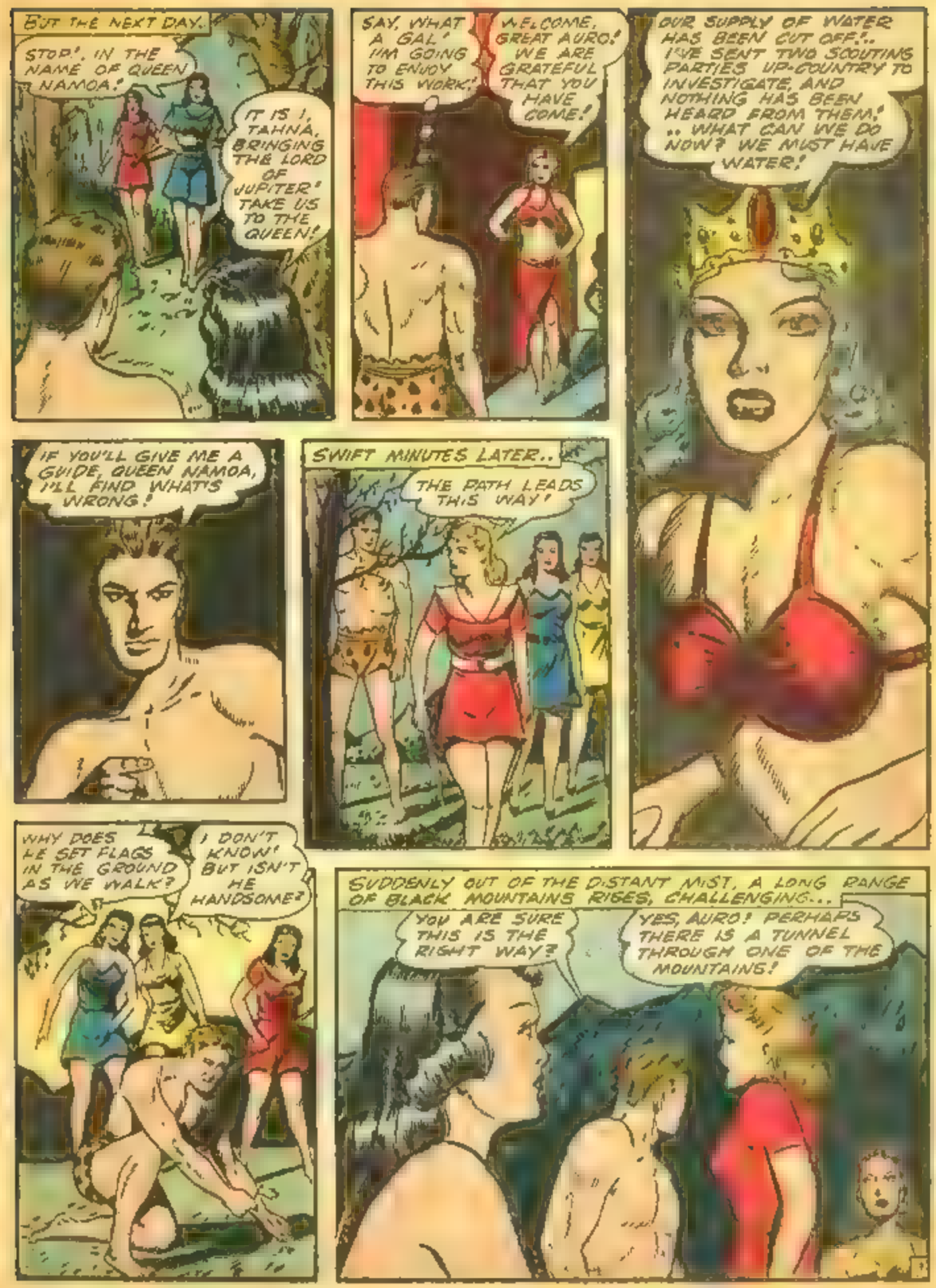
5. That the average number of copies of each issue of this publication sold or distributed, through the mails or otherwise, to paid subscribers during the twelve months preceding the date shown above is ... (This information is required from daily, weekly, semiweekly, and triweekly newspapers only.)

(Signed) Maurice Rose
Publisher

Sworn to and subscribed before me this ... day of September 1941

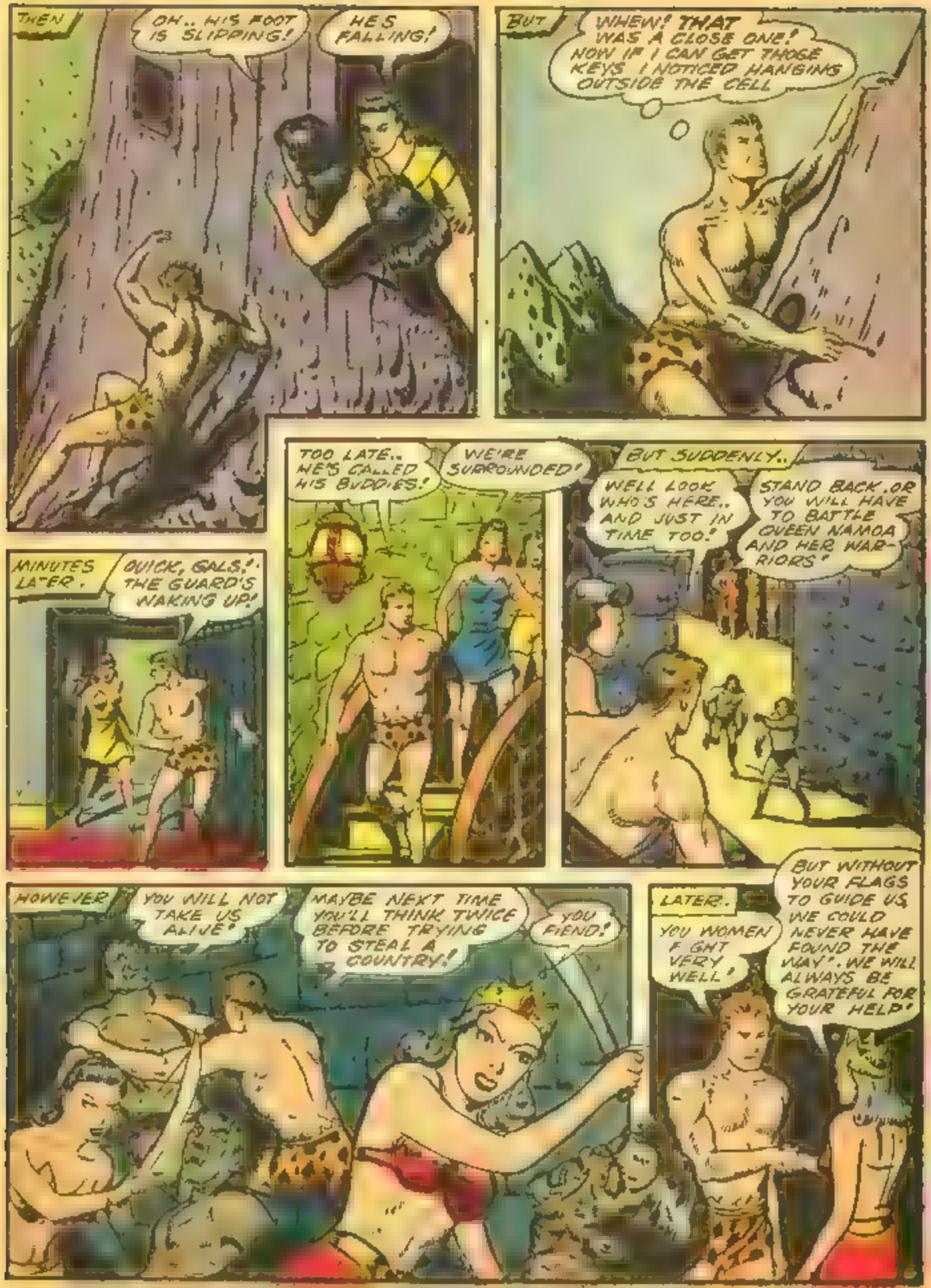
(Signed) Eugene F. Schwerin
Notary Public

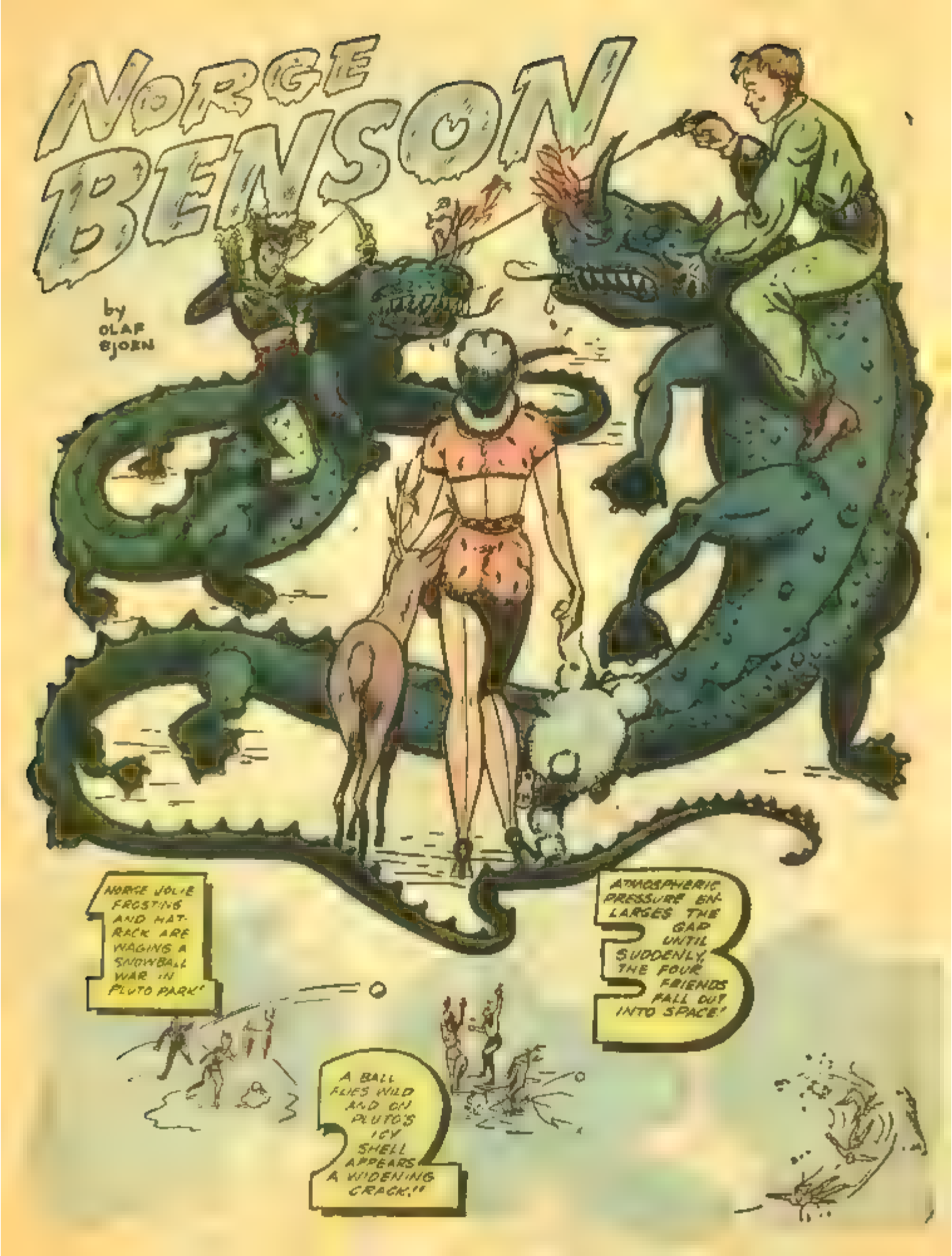
(My commission expires March 30, 1942)


BUT THE NEXT DAY..
STOP!.. IN THE NAME OF QUEEN NAMOA!
IT IS I, TAHNA, BRINGING THE LORD OF JUPITER! TAKE US TO THE QUEEN!
SAY, WHAT A GAL! I'M GOING TO ENJOY THIS WORK!
WELCOME, GREAT AURO! WE ARE GRATEFUL THAT YOU HAVE COME!
OUR SUPPLY OF WATER HAS BEEN CUT OFF!.. I'VE SENT TWO SCOUTING PARTIES UP-COUNTRY TO INVESTIGATE, AND NOTHING HAS BEEN HEARD FROM THEM! .. WHAT CAN WE DO NOW? WE MUST HAVE WATER!
IF YOU'LL GIVE ME A GUIDE, QUEEN NAMOA, I'LL FIND WHAT'S WRONG!
SWIFT MINUTES LATER..
THE PATH LEADS THIS WAY!
WHY DOES HE SET FLAGS IN THE GROUND AS WE WALK?
I DON'T KNOW! BUT ISN'T HE HANDSOME?
SUDDENLY OUT OF THE DISTANT MIST, A LONG RANGE OF BLACK MOUNTAINS RISES, CHALLENGING...
YOU ARE SURE THIS IS THE RIGHT WAY?
YES, AURO! PERHAPS THERE IS A TUNNEL THROUGH ONE OF THE MOUNTAINS!

THEN..
WAIT, WE CAN'T CLIMB ACROSS! THE ROCKS ARE TOO SLIPPERY!
SORRY, GIRLS, WE'LL HAVE TO CHANCE IT! CAN'T WASTE TIME LOOKING FOR A HIDDEN ENTRANCE!
NOT SO FAST, AURO THESE CRAGS ARE STEEP, AND.. HELP.. I'M SLIPPING!
THERE.. I'VE GOT YOU!.. WE'RE ALMOST AT THE TOP!
MINUTES LATER.
WELL, WHAT DO YOU KNOW! JUST MILES OF FLAT DESERT LAND!
THIS IS HOW OUR LAND WILL BE IF WE DON'T FIND WHY OUR CANALS ARE ARE DRY!
AS THEY TURN TO FACE ANOTHER DIRECTION..
LOOK, A HUGE DAM!
BUT TH-THOSE MEN!
THEY DON'T SEEM TO LIKE US, GIRLS! .. LET'S SEE HOW WELL YOU CAN DEFEND YOURSELVES!

THE GIRLS FIGHT FIERCELY..
BUT IT IS A LOSING BATTLE.
WHAT GOES ON HERE? WHY THE DAM?
WE HAVE BEEN SATISFIED WITH OUR BLEAK DESERT LIFE TOO LONG!.. THE FERTILE LAND OF NAMO WILL BE OURS AS LONG AS WE CONTROL ITS IRRIGATION!
THEN THE PRISONERS ARE LED BACK INTO THE MOUNTAINS TO A CITY OF TUMBLING PINNACLED CASTLES
..AND THROWN INTO A DUNGEON HIGH AMONG THE SPIRALS.
THAT'S QUITE A PLAN THEY HAVE.. TO STARVE OUT ALL YOUR PEOPLE AND THEN GRAB THE COUNTRY.
YES..AND IT DOESN'T LOOK AS IF WE'LL BE ABLE TO STOP THEM!
I WONDER WHAT HAPPENED TO THE OTHERS?
THEY MAY BE DEAD! NONE OF US COULD EXIST VERY LONG IN THIS CLIMATE.. I'VE GOT TO FIND A WAY TO ESCAPE!
WAIT A MINUTE.. NO BARS ON THIS WINDOW!..THINK I'LL DO A LITTLE EXPLORING!
BUT WE'RE TOO HIGH.. IF YOU SHOULD FALL..
DON'T WORRY, I'LL BE BACK.. BUT THROUGH THE DOOR NEXT TIME!

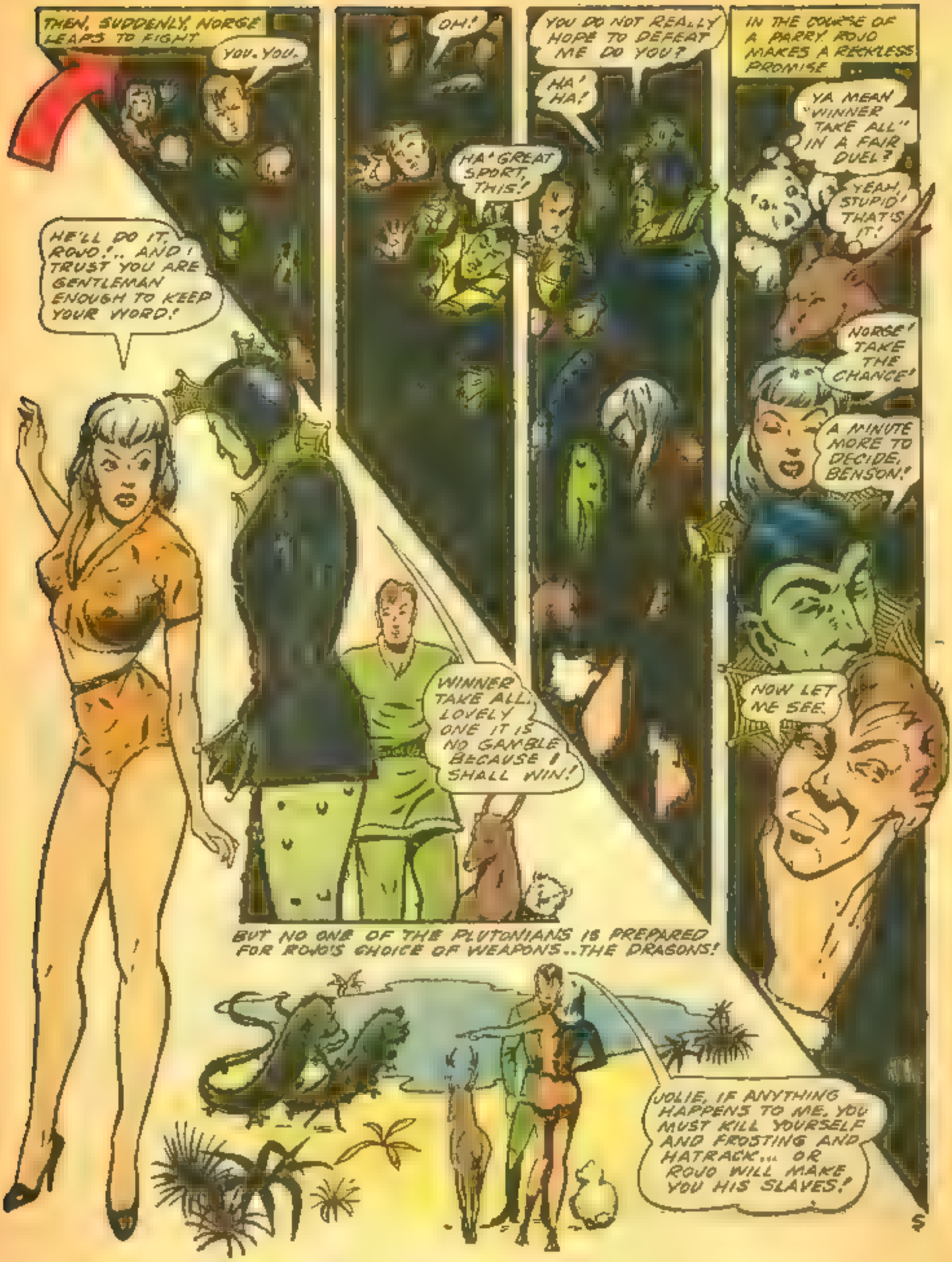

THEN
OH.. HIS FOOT IS SLIPPING!
HE'S FALLING!
BUT
WHEW! THAT WAS A CLOSE ONE! NOW IF I CAN GET THOSE KEYS I NOTICED HANGING OUTSIDE THE CELL
TOO LATE.. HE'S CALLED HIS BUDDIES!
WE'RE SURROUNDED!
BUT SUDDENLY..
WELL LOOK WHO'S HERE.. AND JUST IN TIME TOO!
STAND BACK.OR YOU WILL HAVE TO BATTLE QUEEN NAMOA AND HER WARRIORS"
MINUTES LATER.
QUICK, GALS!. THE GUARD'S WAKING UP!
HOWEVER
YOU WILL NOT TAKE US ALIVE"
MAYBE NEXT TIME YOU'LL THINK TWICE BEFORE TRYING TO STEAL A COUNTRY!
YOU FIEND!
LATER.
YOU WOMEN F GHT VERY WELL'
BUT WITHOUT YOUR FLAGS TO GUIDE US WE COULD NEVER HAVE FOUND THE WAY". WE WILL ALWAYS BE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR HELP!

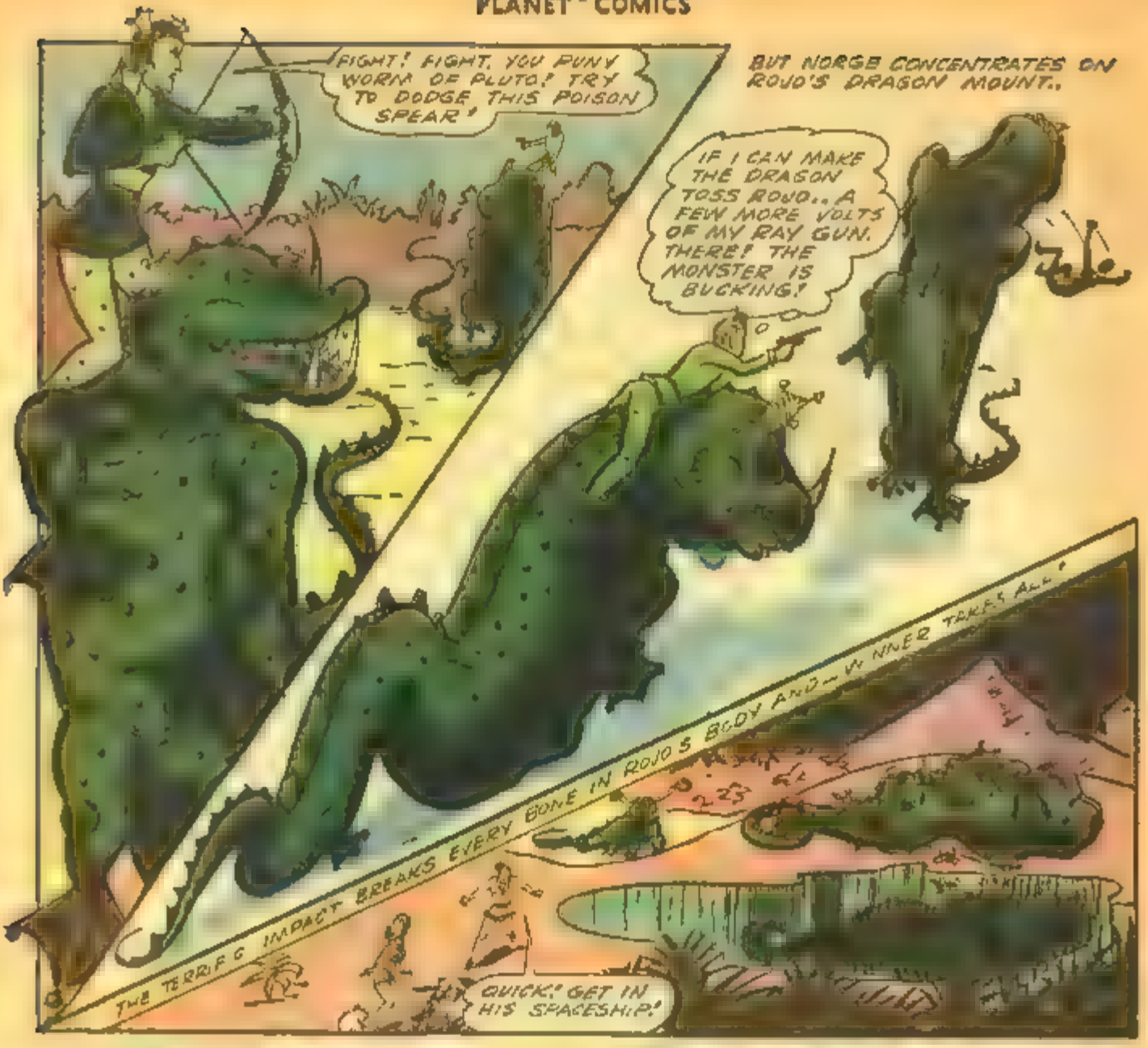

NORGE BENSON
by OLAF BJORN
1 NORGE JOLIE FROSTING AND HAT-RACK ARE WAGING A SNOWBALL WAR IN PLUTO PARK!
2 A BALL FLIES WILD AND ON PLUTO'S ICY SHELL APPEARS A WIDENING CRACK!!
3 ATMOSPHERIC PRESSURE ENLARGES THE GAP UNTIL SUDDENLY, THE FOUR FRIENDS FALL OUT INTO SPACE!

PIERCING STRATAS OF RARIFIED ATMOSPHERE THEY LAND IN A POND IN A STRANGE TROPIC PARADISE
NORGE! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
L..LOOK AT THAT THING"
WHATEVER IT IS, IT'S DRINKIN' THE POND DRY!
NO MATTER THE VAST SIZE OF THIS METAL-SCALED MONSTER, FOR IT TREMBLES AT THE SOUND OF A CURT VOICE..
OUT! OUT OF THE SLIME AND KNEEL FOR YOUR MASTER TO MOUNT!
OH! NORGE! WHO'S THAT??
I D.DON'T KNOW..
THE MASTER" SCANS THEM WITH GOLD-FLASHING EYES AND THEN WITH UNCANNY SPEED, HE RIDES THE DRAGON!
RUN! RUN FOR YOUR LIFE!
H HATRACK, MY LEGS IS TOO SHORT!
PANIC LENDS WINGS TO THEIR FEET, YET THE DRAGON'S BREATH IS OVER HOT BEHIND THEM..
LOOK FOR SHELTER SOMEPLACE!
FROSTING, AFTER THIS, YOU'LL KINDLY REDUCE, YOU'RE TOO HEAVY!

PRAISE BE THIS CAVE SHOWED ITSELF!
SHHH! MAYBE THAT THING WILL GO PAST!
HUFF PUFF!
BUT
NORGE! THERE'S ANOTHER ONE IN HERE!
WE'LL SUFFOCATE IN HERE.. I'D RATHER DIE OUTSIDE IN THE FRESH AIR!
WHY DO YOU SPEAK OF DYING? I DO NOT PURSUE TO KILL YOU! BUT MERELY TO OFFER YOU THE HOSPITALITY OF MY HOME I AM ROJO, AND THIS IS THE PLANET DIABLO.
OH!
MY! THAT'S A RELIEF! .. SUCH A LOVELY PLANET YOU HAVE HERE, MR. ROJO.
YES, I RATHER LIKE IT!
WHAT YOU GRIPIN' FOR, FROSTIN?
MY FUR! I'M BOILIN'! AM I HOT"
CASUALLY ROJO INDICATES HIS WEALTH - A GLITTERING CASTLE A SLEEK PLATINUM SPACE SHIP
WHY, IT'S ALL TOO BEAUTIFUL!
OH, I TRADE IT IN EACH YEAR.
ROJO DINES HIS GUESTS IN SUMPTUOUS SPLENDOR -
MORE?
OH THANK YOU!
GLURP!
FROSTING, DON'T BE A PIG!
SUDDENLY - A STRANGE METALLIC CLANKING FROM THE DEPTHS BELOW -
ER WILL YOU EXCUSE ME? ER, SOMETHING I FORGOT..
D'SSS

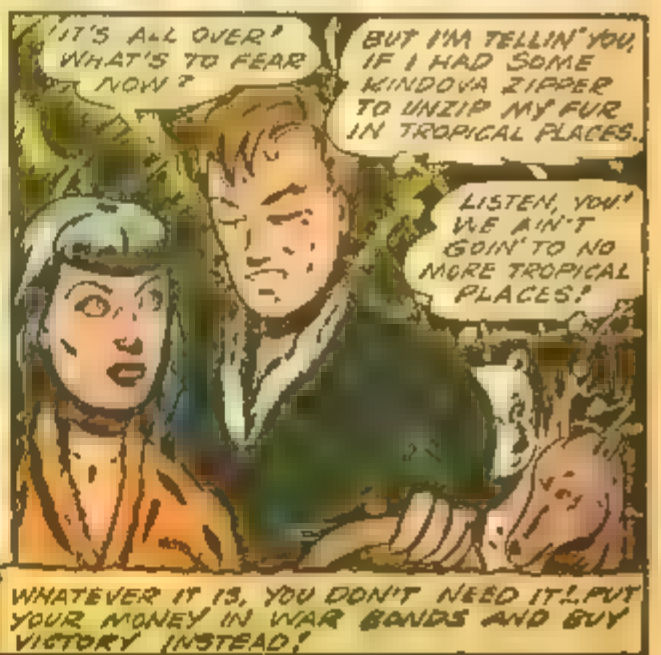
FROSTING, YOU GUARD THAT DOOR!
HOKAY!
I'M SURE THE NOISE CAME FROM THIS TRAP-DOOR!
HURRY! WE DON'T WANT ROVO TO FIND US SNOOPING, AFTER ALL —
OH!! IT'S A D-DUNGEON!
GO. BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE! WE TOO WERE SWAYED BY HIS PROMISES AND NOW WE SLAVE IN BOILING LAVA PITS!
HOW HURRIBLE! WE MUST ESCAPE AND HELP THOSE POOR PEOPLE!
SHUT IT! ROVO IS COMING!
ER. HELLO
WHY DO YOU TREMBLE? HAVE YOU SEEN A GHOST?
YOU HAVE SEEN SOMETHING" DID YOU ENJOY IT? RUN_RUN! BUT YOU CANNOT ESCAPE ME!
QUICK! QUICK!
BREATHLESS THEY RACE THROUGH A MAZE OF CORRIDORS
AND.
DEAD END, YOU SEE.. THERE IS NO WAY OUT! HA! HA! HA!


THEN, SUDDENLY, NORGE LEAPS TO FIGHT
YOU. YOU.
OH!
HA! HA! GREAT SPORT, THIS!
YOU DO NOT REALLY HOPE TO DEFEAT ME DO YOU?
HA! HA!
IN THE COURSE OF A PARRY, ROJO MAKES A RECKLESS PROMISE
YA MEAN "WINNER TAKE ALL" IN A FAIR DUEL?
YEAH, STUPID! THAT'S IT!
NORGE! TAKE THE CHANCE!
A MINUTE MORE TO DECIDE, BENSON!
HE'LL DO IT, ROJO!.. AND I TRUST YOU ARE GENTLEMAN ENOUGH TO KEEP YOUR WORD!
WINNER TAKE ALL, LOVELY ONE IT IS NO GAMBLE BECAUSE I SHALL WIN!
NOW LET ME SEE.
BUT NO ONE OF THE PLUTONIANS IS PREPARED FOR ROJO'S CHOICE OF WEAPONS..THE DRAGONS!
JOLIE, IF ANYTHING HAPPENS TO ME, YOU MUST KILL YOURSELF AND FROSTING AND HATRACK... OR ROJO WILL MAKE YOU HIS SLAVES!


FIGHT! FIGHT, YOU PUNY WORM OF PLUTO! TRY TO DODGE THIS POISON SPEAR!
BUT NORGE CONCENTRATES ON ROJO'S DRAGON MOUNT..
IF I CAN MAKE THE DRAGON TOSS ROJO.. A FEW MORE VOLTS OF MY RAY GUN. THERE! THE MONSTER IS BUCKING!
THE TERRIFIC IMPACT BREAKS EVERY BONE IN ROJO'S BODY AND—IN ONE TAKES ALL!
QUICK! GET IN HIS SPACESHIP!

WE MUST GET HELP FROM PLUTO FOR ROJO'S POOR HELPLESS SLAVES!

SOON THE ROCKET SHIP HOVERS WITHIN SIGHT OF THE HOME PLANET
BRR NORGE I DON'T KNOW WHETHER I'M C.C COLD OR S S SCARED TO DEATH!.


"IT'S ALL OVER! WHAT'S TO FEAR NOW?
BUT I'M TELLIN' YOU, IF I HAD SOME KINDOVA ZIPPER TO UNZIP MY FUR IN TROPICAL PLACES..
LISTEN, YOU! WE AIN'T GOIN' TO NO MORE TROPICAL PLACES!
WHATEVER IT IS, YOU DON'T NEED IT! PUT YOUR MONEY IN WAR BONDS AND BUY VICTORY INSTEAD!

FLINT BAKER and REEF RYAN
SPACE RANGERS
by HUGH FITZHUGH
WHILE ENROUTE TO EARTH..
REEF! METAL LOCATOR GLOWING .. SOMETHING IN OUR SPACE CHANNEL. GET A BEARING BEFORE WE CRASH!

IT'S AN EMERGENCY SPACE SHELL FLINT SENDING OUT AUTOMATIC SOS AS WE NEAR.. MIGHT BE A MESSAGE INSIDE!
THERE IT IS! MAGNETIC NET, REEF!
C'MON C'MON, WHAT GIVES?
LET'S SEE... TO WHOMEVER FINDS THIS . I, PROFESSOR LEGONG . HOLY COW, FLINT, THIS IS BIG STUFF!
Send aid as soon as possible. Found lost planet of Aztla -- Crashed, no fuel -- In serious danger.. Directions: Follow astral route 3 to 40° veer north-east to vortex ambul.. Professor Legong
PROFESSOR LEGONG! REMEMBER? HE'S THE CHAP WHO LED THE SPACE EXPLORERS SEARCHING FOR AZTLA .. EXPEDITION'S BEEN MISSING FOR MONTHS, AND EVERYONE THOUGHT THEY PERISHED! GET A MOVE ON!
LATER
V-ZOPP-EL ON THERE'S THE PLANETOID!
LOOK, THAT MUST BE THEIR SPACE SHIP! WE'LL LAND NEARBY!
SAY.Y.Y.! TAKE A GANDER AT THAT BEAUTIFUL CHUNK OF FEMININITY!
HOLD IT, REEF! KEEP AN ITCHY FINGER ON THE TRIGGER 'TIL WE'RE SURE THIS ISN'T A TRAP!

YO ! RECOGNIZE HIM . HE'S PROFESSOR LEGONG !
YES ! THANK GOODNESS ! YOU'VE FOUND US .
WE FOUND THIS PLANET MONTHS AGO. APPARENTLY UNINHABITED. BUT WHEN DIGGING IN THE RUINS, WE RD MONSTERS ATTACKED US, THEY TOOK OUR SPACE SHIP POWER DISABLED OUR RADIO THEN PICKED US OFF ONE BY ONE !
SUDDENLY .
LOOK ! TH. THEY COME AGAIN ! SHOOT THEM !
FROM OUT OF THE CLOUDS, SOAR THE DRAGON MEN, IN THEIR SKY MOUNTS' TALONS LIFELESS BODIES, WHICH THEY HURL GROUNDWARD...
QUICK ! THEY'LL TRY TO DISABLE YOUR SPACE SHIP THAT'S OUR ONLY HOPE.. WE'VE GOT TO STOP THEM !
3

BUT WITH PRIMITIVE CROSSBOW WEAPONS SHOOTING PARALYZING GAS PELLETS..
CAN'T DRIVE 'EM ALL OFF FLINT. SOME ARE GETTIN' THROUGH!
WITH SWIFT PRECISION PRECIOUS SPACE FUEL IS DUMPED AND ALL EXPLOSIVE SHELLS CARTED AWAY..
SUDDENLY A SKY MONSTER SWOOPS LOW.
HELP! HELP!
THEY GOT DORNA! AND MY SPACE GUN'S OUTA AMMO!
MINUTES LATER
GONE.. DORNA'S A CAPTIVE OF THOSE DEVILS, AND YOUR SPACE SHIP IS SMASHED! BUT YOUR FRIEND..
GAS PELLET HIT HIM, BUT HE'LL BE OKAY.. I WANT TO LOOK AT THOSE BODIES THEY THREW AT US!
THESE BODIES! THEY'RE THE SCIENTISTS THE DRAGON MEN PICKED OFF.. THEY.. THEY'RE ALL DEAD!
NOT ONLY THAT LOOK AT THEIR EYES.. NOTHING BUT EMPTY SOCKETS!

NEARING THE OTHER SIDE OF THE PLANET...
DOWN, INTO THE CAVE! HURRY OR THE GIRL MAY FREEZE!
WH..WHO ARE YOU?
I AM TANURA, THE AZTLAN LEADER. YEARS AGO WE LIVED ON THE OTHER SIDE, BUT THE PLANET SHIFTED, AND THE SUN HEAT AND LIGHT WERE SO INTENSE THAT MANY WERE BLINDED! WE ESCAPED HERE TO THE COLD SIDE.
NOW THAT THE WARMER SIDE IS HABITABLE AGAIN, WE MUST PREVENT EARTH FROM DISCOVERING THIS. YOUR EYES, MY DEAR, SHALL BE TRANSFERRED TO THE EMPTY SOCKETS OF AN AZTLAN!!
MEANWHILE,
THIS IS THE SPOT?
YES! THE ONLY LOCATION WHERE ENERGY-PRODUCING MONAMIUM ORE CAN BE FOUND! PUT IT IN THE REFINING MACHINE. MAYBE WE CAN GET ENOUGH TO POWER OUR RAY GUNS!
LATER
HEY, MY PICK WENT THROUGH.. LOOK!
REEF LISTEN! RUSHING WATER.. AN UNDERGROUND STREAM!
YOUR SUPER-MAGNIFIER PICK UP ANYTHING?
YES! VOICES.. VOICES OF DRAGON MEN! C'MON GATHER ALL THE LOGS YOU CAN FIND.., WE'RE GOIN' VISITIN'!

SOON.
SHOVE OFF, REEF! RAY GUNS POWERED, AND IF THIS BUGGY HOLDS TOGETHER WE MAY BE IN TIME TO SAVE DORNA!
GETTING CLOSER. VOLUME LOUDER ON MY MAGNIFIER!
AHEAD
COME, IT IS TIME FOR THE OPERATION.. THE SIGHTLESS AZTLAN BECOMES IMPATIENT!
NO.. YOU CAN'T.. HELP!
YOUR CRIES ARE USELESS! BUT WHY WORRY? THIS NEEDLE DEADENS ALL PAIN!
AT THAT MOMENT
DRAGON MEN! DORNA STRAPPED TO THAT TABLE! QUICK, POLE ASHORE!
GET THAT BABY WITH THE HYPO!
HE'LL NEED A HYPO AFTER THIS BLAST!

THE DRAGON MEN FALL BACK UNDER THE SAVAGE RAY GUN ASSAULT...
THERE! TAKE IT EASY, HONEY. WE'LL HAVE YOU OUTA THIS RAT-TRAP IN JIG TIME!
FLINT, HJARRY! THOSE BUCK-TEETH BOYS ARE COMING BACK WITH THEIR GAS PARALYZERS!
BAKER! WHERE IS RYAN...
HOW DO I KNOW? REEF, COME BACK!
NO TIME FOR GAB.. ONLY ONE CHANCE.. GOT TO FIND THEM!
FLINT'S SMALL FORCE GIVES GROUND AS GAS PELLETS FALL DANGEROUSLY CLOSE..
KEEP MOVING.. FAST! AS LONG AS THE PELLETS DON'T LAND NEAR US, WE'RE SAFE!
CORNERED! UNLESS SOMETHING GIVES SOON WE'RE DEAD DUCKS! BUT I GOT A HUNCH REEF'S UP TO SOME SCHEMIN'!
UNNOTICED, A SHORT DISTANCE AWAY..
GLORY BE! FOUND THE SHELLS THEY SWIPED FROM OUR SHIP! NOW THE FUN'S READY TO BEGIN!

FLINT! I FOUND 'EM! QUICK, ORDER EVERYONE TO HIGHTAIL IT TO THE RAFT!
HOLY SMOKE! NICE BRAIN WORK, REEF!
OKAY, ALMOST THERE! DO YOUR STUFF!
RIGHT! I'LL LOB THE WHOLE CABOODLE IN THAT BONFIRE!
EXPLOSION KNOCKED OFF HALF THE DRAGONMEN! BUT REEF, HE-HE'S GONE! MAYBE HE WAS CAUGHT!
THE TREMENDOUS CONCUSSION SPLITS THE CAVE.. WITH A RUMBLING ROAR THE WALLS DISINTEGRATE, SEALING THE DRAGON MEN IN FOREVER!
MINUTES LATER..
REEF! I THOUGHT..
G'WAN, FLINT! YOU CAN'T GET RID OF ME THAT EASILY!
NOW WE CAN DIG ENOUGH ORE TO POWER OUR SPACE SHIPS!
THE SPACE RANGERS TACKLE WEIRD METAL MONSTERS IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF PLANET COMICS!

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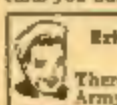

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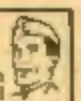

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